

John A. Courten
1870

Genuine Memoirs

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COUNTESS DUBARRE,

MISTRESS to LOUIS XV.

CONTAINING

**The SECRET and POLITICAL HISTORY of the
FRENCH COURT to the Death of that
MONARCH.**

Translated from the FRENCH.

In TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME FIRST.

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Dubarry (Marie J.) Countess

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Advertisement.

AGREEABLY to the title of these Memoirs, the Reader will perceive, that the Author has not confined himself to a mere narrative of the amours of his heroine. Whatever pleasure a subject of that nature might afford to some minds, his plan, he presumes, will be found more comprehensive, and his views more laudable. Every thing interesting to curiosity or reflection, has been collected with apparent scrupulous attention; and great care has been taken to avoid inserting any of those absurd and extravagant anecdotes, the offspring of sportive invention, malicious slander, or disappointed envy, which generally make up the greater part of modern productions of a similar class.

In pursuing the thread of Madam Dubarre's life, through all its extraordinary vicissitudes, from the cradle to her last scene in the convent, after the death of her royal lover, not a single fact has been introduced but what was properly authenticated, when it was possible to procure such testimony; and when such could not be had,

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the Author has treated them accordingly, inserting them only for the pleasure and entertainment of his readers.

Whatever reception those Memoirs may meet from an English reader, the Editor would not have attempted to offer it to his perusal, had it not appeared to contain something more important and instructive than a work entirely calculated for the gratification of idle curiosity.

If we consider the influence of Madam Dubarré for several years, over the mind of one of the most powerful monarchs in Europe, who, in a manner, idolized her charms, and who, from his boundless passion, reposed the most unlimited confidence in the mistress, we may venture to affirm, that her history is not beneath the attention of the serious; especially as nothing of moment, either with regard to domestic or foreign affairs, was transacted by Government without her knowledge. But, not to anticipate the the pleasure of our readers, we will conclude with observing, that the following sheets will not only gratify the taste of those who read chiefly for amusement, but prove an agreeable entertainment to the more speculative and curious.

MEMOIRS, &c.

IN the early part of the year 1768, Count Dubarré accidentally met with Mons. Le Bel, one of the principal valet de chambres to the prince. This gentleman enjoyed the largest share of his master's confidence in what related to his majesty's private pleasures; and it was his immediate province to provide fresh stock for the royal deer-park. By this appellation was known that quarter of Versailles, where Madam Pompadour had established a kind of seminary for the reception of young damsels that her emissaries were perpetually collecting in the city and suburbs of Paris, to furnish new entertainment for the bed of her royal lover. The sagacious mistress was sensible of the necessity of compensating for her own physical defects with foreign supplies; and by this prudent attention preserved the heart

of the prince, and all the honours that belonged to the ostensible mistress. It would be endless to enumerate all the different ladies who were introduced into this seraglio, where each expected her turn, and frequently met with a disappointment; or if any were admitted to a familiarity with the sultan, their empire ceased after a few trifling caresses, owing either to the lover's disgust, or the alarms of the chief sultana, who was extremely careful to remove all those who by their accomplishments or capacity, or the inclination of the sovereign, were likely to endanger her pre-eminence and power. Admission however into this seraglio became a title to particular favours. It was common to portion out girls thence, with a fortune of 200,000 livres, and send them into some of the more remote provinces of the kingdom. Some few were, by particular indulgence, permitted to settle in Paris; among the latter was Madam Gianbonne, who was married to a banker; Madam David, wife to a commissary of stores; Madam Le Normand, who first succeeded to the honour
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of the royal embraces after his majesty had quitted the bed of Madam Pompadour : this lady was then known by the name of Mademoiselle Morii, and is in great consideration on account of the marriage of her daughter with the nephew of Abbé Terrai ; in fine, Mademoiselle Sélin, a young lady of family from Brittany, who, by choice, retired to a convent where she held the first rank, with many others whom it is unnecessary to mention. From those particulars it is easy to conceive that this establishment must have been attended with considerable expence, not only on account of those young nymphs who retired from the seraglio, and who, upon a moderate calculation, amounted to one every week, which was an object of at least half a million annually ; but likewise the pay of the several chief agents and subalterns employed in collecting them, with the charges of sweetening, perfuming, dressing, and adorning the ladies, in order to qualify them to captivate by external embellishments, as well as by their native charms : and if we add to the principal articles of expence,

the idle waste and extravagance that naturally result from such business, and from those who have the management of it, we may readily account for the continual draining of the public treasury under the vague and abusive title of disbursements.

REPEATED losses had so far chagrined the sovereign, that he gave orders to unpeople the deer-park, that he might indulge his sorrows in silence. The approaches of old age, and the facility with which a powerful prince may gratify all his desires, had greatly abated his passion for the sex. This appetite, however, tho' lessened, still subsisted; besides, the courtiers thought it expedient to divert his majesty from those melancholy ideas which the long and painful sickness of his virtuous consort had occasioned. The physicians suggested, that so sudden a privation of a pleasure that was become necessary to his existence, might prove dangerous. The sovereign must have relished the advice of the medical gentlemen, notwithstanding his affliction for the illness and loss of his companion; as he styles
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the queen in the letter which he wrote to the archbishop to inform him of her death. He ordered Monsieur Le Bel to make the necessary provision for that purpose. This zealous domestic, the better to serve his royal master, frequently went in pursuit of the game in person ; it was on one of those occasions, that after running himself out of breath in the chase, that he happened to meet with the Count Dubarré. The latter was a keen sportsman in affairs of gallantry, his talents were besides well known to the valet de chambre ; he therefore found no difficulty in extorting the secrets of his commission. Le Bel informed him with great concern, that in all his researches he had been unfortunate enough to start no game that was likely to please the appetite of his master. The Count with his usual effrontery desired him to be no way uneasy on that account, assuring him that he had the very thing itself that would suit his purpose. You know my taste, said he, leave the matter to me ; do me the favour to dine with me, and

brand me with the name of an imposing knave, if I do not introduce you to the most lovely, fresh, and bewitching of her sex. She is a most exquisite morsel, and worthy of an emperor. The royal purveyor overjoyed at so pleasing a proposal, embraced his friend, and promised to wait upon him at the hour appointed. Monsieur Dubarrè hurried home as fast as he could, in order to set off all the charms of Mademoiselle L'Ange. This was the name given to Mademoiselle Vaubergnier from the time she had lived with him; it being usual with courtesans, in imitation of the military in France, to assume a different title at their first entrance into keeping. He told her the part she was to act, flattering her with hopes that he must have looked upon them as chimerical, tho' they were afterwards realized. He set before her eyes the splendor of her future elevation; assured her that his object was not merely to introduce her to Versailles for the temporary gratification of the sovereign, without more éclat or noise; his intention.

intention was to procure her the rank and title of Mistress, in as ample a manner as they had been enjoyed by Madam Pompadour; that it would be necessary therefore to introduce her as his sister-in-law, to Monsieur Le Bel, whom he expected every moment, as if she had been really married to the elder Dubarré; that if she supported that character well, and put forth all her power of coquetry and charms, she might leave the rest to him, and he would answer for the success.

MADemoiselle L'Ange had already been frequently called Countess Dubarré in jest. It is very usual with ladies in keeping, to assume the title or name of their lovers. She found but little difficulty therefore to act her part before Monsieur Le Bel, who, surprised and charmed with the elegance of her person, her vivacity, wanton glances, and love-inspiring conversation, quickly forgot his debility of years, and felt a renovation of vigour thrilling thro' his aged veins; hence he conceived by experience what a happy effect a woman possessed of such accom-

plishments, must operate on the heart of his master. Pleasure and joy triumphed at the table during the time of dinner, and the valet de chambre was so elated, that he would have gladly made a personal experiment, in order to know how far he might boast of his discovery. Monsieur Dubarrè took advantage of the raptures of the old lecher, and gave him to understand, that his sister was not to be proposed to the king like one of those insignificant creatures, who being introduced to him as temporary conveniencies, were afterwards dismissed without any ceremony; that she was a lady of quality who should doubtless think herself highly honoured in being admitted to the embraces of so great a prince, and so desirable a lover; but who raised her hopes still higher, and had the ambition to wish the conquest of his heart, and who had also some claim to the honour from the attachment she already felt for his sacred person, an attachment that must increase upon a closer intimacy.

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THE old fool was too much smitten not to admit the truth of these remarks; or to refuse concurring in every article that was thought necessary. From that moment it was resolved, that the fictitious countess was a most delicate morsel; that Monsieur Le Bel should acquaint the Monarch with all that he had seen; that he should inform his Majesty of the earnest desire the lady had to please him; of the entire resignation of the husband to the will of his sovereign, and how happy it would make this loyal couple to be any way instrumental to his pleasures; but that this paragon of beauty, conscious of being able to prove her long attachment, ventured to hope for a similar return from her august lover, and the exclusion of every other rival.

SOME wag of a courtier pretended to say, that after this conversation, the ambassador was permitted to take possession of the intended sultana in the name of his Majesty. Others will have it, that hints were artfully thrown out to give him a prospect of such a happiness, in case he

executed his commission well. Be that as it may, as he was so much inflamed himself, his warm and animated description had a powerful effect on the passion and curiosity of the prince. To inflame his Majesty still more, and before he had formed any attachment, he proposed giving him a sight of the object, without her knowledge, and thus enable his Majesty to form a judgement himself; the valet de chambre had a small house fitted up for that purpose, to which he invited the Countess to supper. It is probable that the lady had been previously prepared to expect this secret observer. The company was suited to the intended scene. The entertainment was so voluptuous, that the monarch could contain himself no longer. That very night he ordered Mademoiselle L'Ange to be introduced; and in the possession of the lady found secret charms superior even to her external beauties. Indeed those who had the honour of preceding the sovereign in those enjoyments, unanimately assert that she was mistress of every qualification, to revive the most shattered constitution.

constitution. Worn out as this superannuated lover was, with a general disinclination to the sex, who, till then, awed by respect and veneration, even in the very moments of pleasure, had withheld from him its various resources, to find one who introduced him, as it were, into a new world of joy, who presented him with an endless source of delights to which he had been a stranger, what a discovery was this! what a treasure! Many ladies, no doubt, had been admitted to the royal bed, who were equally experienced with Mademoiselle L'Ange, but they were not of a character free and open enough, nor had they confidence to boast of their powers, or resolution to apply them. The latter, on the contrary, besides her candour, freedom, and spirit, was, moreover, tutored by a man of consummate experience in all the refinements of libidinous pleasure. He did not doubt of the astonishing effect on the sensations that must arise from the striking contrast of the lessons given to his pupil, with the cold and

affected careffes of the first miftreffes of the fovereign. He had only to leave this well instructed nymph to her own voluptuous imagination ; and the fuccefs of her first triumph was a powerful encouragement to her to difplay the full extent of her art. If men who are accuftomed to the practices of ladies of pleasure, to their lively and animated manner, ftill feel with them fenfations of pleasure, what impreffions muft not thofe efficacious arts produce upon a voluptuary, who had never experienced them ! In this predicament was the monarch, according to the testimony of thofe courtiers who were beft acquainted with his Majesty's private life and amusements.

THIS daughter of Paphos exerted her talents fo well, that the king could not bear a feparation, and he had her carried to Compiègne, where fhe continued during his refidence there. She was kept very privately, becaufe his Majesty was then in deep mourning for the Queen, and it would be improper on fuch an occafion
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to make an open avowal of his passion. Besides, he was an admirer of decency, and of those appearances which his rank required, for the preservation of good morals. But even those little restraints served only to inflame and strengthen his passion, insomuch that it has been asserted that Monsieur Le Bel having discovered the fixed attachment of his master to Mademoiselle L'Ange, and that matters were carrying much farther than he had imagined, began to repent of having concurred in the manœuvres of the Count, especially as he was not ignorant of the nature of the prior connections of the lady. He thought it therefore his duty before the favourite had completely established herself, to throw himself at the feet of the king, and inform him in what manner he had come to the knowledge of that beauty; that he had been imposed upon; that she was so far from being a lady of quality, that she was not even married. The sovereign, as it was generally reported by the courtiers, exclaimed, *So much the worse*; let her be married

married instantly, that I may not have it in my power to commit any act of extravagancy. It is added that the officious valet then attempted to be more particular; but a severe look of the master awed him into silence. Some people will have it, that the concern he felt for having raised a creature of that stamp, and the idea he entertained of the consequences that might flow from a passion so violent in a prince declining in years, so deeply affected the faithful domestic, that he died of a broken heart. Others pretend that he was hurried out of the world by a poisonous dose that was prudently administered, to prevent him making any indiscreet discoveries.

HOWEVER the affair was, the conduct of the King greatly raised the expectations of the Count Dubarrè, hence called the Great Dubarrè, in order to distinguish him from his brothers. One of those brothers, whom we shall name Dubarrè the Gross, was a most egregious sot, a mere swine that was continually wallowing both night and day in the most filthy debaucheries.

baucheries. Such was the man to whom it was resolved that Mademoiselle L'Ange should be married. The matter had been previously proposed to him, nor was there any great difficulty to persuade him to a compliance, when he was informed, that by so doing he should be furnished with the sums necessary to gratify his inclinations, and pursue that manner of life that was most pleasing to him. Such an offer might have corrupted a more delicate mind. He submitted to the ceremony; the marriage was solemnized in the parish of St. Lawrence, on the 1st of September, 1768. The notary, Monsieur Pot D'Auteil, who drew up the contract, was then ignorant of the exalted destiny of the lady whose marriage he registered; but being struck with her grace and beauty, he was desirous of making use of the privilege usual with those of his profession on such occasions; he advanced with an air of gallantry to salute the young bride: the lady unacquainted with these forms, made that resistance which modesty suggests

gests to all others of the sex, and the part she had been acting for some time past, was a still better motive for the reserve. Her brother-in-law prevailed upon her to indulge the notary with the liberty of kissing her cheek, and afterwards addressing that officer: "Do Sir," said he, "remember this indulgence, for it is the last you will obtain from the lady."

THE royal lover was in raptures to hear the ceremony had been performed. He seemed now to give himself up without reserve to the new Countess; and his passion, instead of being lessened by enjoyment, daily encreased to such a degree, that the Dubarrès began to conceive the most ambitious hopes. But the important affair now was to regulate properly the conduct of the mistress; for this matter required the utmost skill and circumspection.

THE Lady had none of those talents for intrigue that her situation demanded. We have seen in the course of her adventures to the hour of her elevation, that she was
desitute

destitute of those arts that are so common among courtezans, and which are so useful in captivating the hearts of men. Having neither selfish interest or ambition at heart, she was not actuated by the powerful springs of those two passions, which have so great an influence over the most vulgar souls ; but the new Countess, in the part she had undertaken, was possessed of a quality that is perhaps superior. She had good sense enough to follow the advice she received, and to apply it with advantage ; in short, she listened with the most docile attention to the instructions of her brother-in-law, whose success in the plan he had formed, perfectly secured him the confidence of his sister-in-law. The only difficulty was now to conceal from the prying eyes of courtiers the secret clue that directed the steps of the favourite ; for not only the Count, by too great assiduity about her person, might become suspicious to the sovereign himself, but it would give a handle to the malignity of the courtiers ; and the sudden removal of this monitor might lay the mistress defenceless,

less, and betray her into many errors and absurdities.

THE Count Dubarrè formed a plan of conduct which may be considered as a master-piece of art in that way. This was to seem to leave his sister-in-law entirely to her brilliant destiny, and not to shew himself at court ; but at the same time he placed his sister Dubarrè near her, whom he judged very capable of the employment for which he designed her. She was too homely to give the least alarm to the jealousy of the Countess, or even to be engaged in amorous intrigues that could divert her attention from the principal object. She had, moreover, talents ; she was a wit, and had displayed her literary merit by some essays in the Weekly Journal. She possessed the arts of insinuation, and soon found means to govern the mind of the favourite, which was an important object. Thus a perpetual advice was passed from the brother to the sister, and from the latter to the Countess ; and in like manner from the Countess to the sister, and from the sister to the brother. Trusty
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young persons, tutored by the Count, were continually on the road to Versailles, and carried verbal or written orders from him, according to different circumstances. The number of messengers was augmented as often as there was occasion, and the mistress, by that means, was advised at any moment. Sometimes she made little excursions to Paris, and having no house in the capital, she lodged at her brother-in-law's, where she received general instructions, which she might apply to particular cases.

NOTWITHSTANDING all these wise, multifarious, and particular precautions, it must doubtless appear astonishing to our readers, that a girl of vulgar birth, low education, and who, in some sort, never had seen any but the worst of company, without a natural disposition to intrigue, should have been able to keep her ground for near a year, which had elapsed from her first interview with the king to the day of her being introduced publicly, and never expose herself to censure or
raillery,

raillery, by any misconduct or indiscretion in words or actions.

CIRCUMSPECTION was the more necessary as she had against her the most powerful party of the court, that of Choiseul. At the bare idea of this name, we are lost in astonishment, when we consider what has happened, and what a series of revolutions have been rapidly produced by an agent so contemptible and feeble in appearance, and who seemed no more than glass in the hands of an all-powerful minister.

For perhaps the great Richlieu himself never had a greater ascendancy over the mind of Louis XIII. than his Grace the Duke of Choiseul had over that of his master. Ever since the peace, he had been daily insinuating himself still farther into his confidence. His extraordinary talents for intrigue had gained him the character of a great politician with the king. His Majesty was firmly persuaded, that by his negotiations divisions were fomented among the natural enemies
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of France, which disabled them from disturbing her tranquillity : this made him appear the more necessary, as the prince looked upon him as the only man capable of securing a peace so desirable, and which was the first object of the royal wishes : Besides his manner of doing business was concise, dexterous, and easy, and completely suited to the indolence of the master. Even when he went to give him an account of the most important affairs, he frequently talked of nothing but pleasures and entertainments.

EXCLUSIVE of those motives of pleasure and utility, or rather necessity, which one would think sufficient to render the Duke of Choiseuil invincible, during the reign of a prince, who, as he advanced in years, could not but grow more weak and more patient of controul, this nobleman was in himself of great consideration. His birth was illustrious ; he was allied to several sovereign princes, and particularly to the family of Lorraine ; this gave him considerable respect and influence

fluence at the court of Vienna. His family compact had made him a favourite with the different branches of the house of Bourbon; and by his openly attacking the Jesuits, he was become particularly dear to the kings of Spain and Portugal. In a word, he had an immense party in the dominions of France. All places of honour and profit were filled with his creatures and dependents: one half of the princes of the blood feared him; the rest were attached to him by the bonds of pleasure and friendship.

THE Dubarrès terrified at so formidable an adversary, endeavoured at first to gain him over to their interest. This nobleman was a lover of gallantry and pleasure. Some pretend that the brother-in-law advised the Countess to play off all her charms against him; and that the resentment of the lady was raised to the highest pitch to see them despised by her haughty opponent, who, thinking that he should never have any thing to fear from so insignificant a female, treated her with the utmost

most contempt : but probably that which occasioned an implacable war between the two parties, was the attempt made by the Dutchess of Grammont, sister to the minister, to rival the favourite. The Dutchess, more haughty, more imperious, and more artful, if possible, than her brother, had the entire ascendant over the latter, and had so far moulded him to her purpose, as to make him a mere puppet in her hands. Their intimacy had given room to the malignant reports of courtiers ; and some even went so far as to insinuate that they slept together. However that might be, she was a court lady in the fullest extent of the word, that is to say, she was unreserved, bold, and impudent, and looked upon virtue and morality as calculated only for the meridian of vulgarity. She had neither youth or a person formed for attraction. Notwithstanding this, however, she imagined she had charms to captivate the prince. By her rank, and the favour of her brother, she found admittance to the private apartments, and shared in the pleasures of his Majesty. As there had
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been no female since the death of Madam Pompadour, capable of counteracting her designs, she took advantage of the pliant and easy temper of the prince, and knowing his weakness with regard to the sex, and how easily he was led away by the first object of pleasure that offered, and that circumstances alone fixed his inclinations, she in a manner forced herself into the royal bed, in spite of his Majesty : this at least was the general opinion at Versailles. But as this connection was merely the result of convenience or compulsion, and that each time the monarch was in a manner violated, if we may be allowed the expression in speaking of a prince so much accustomed to pleasures, she was quickly thrown aside, when an object more capable of inspiring amorous sentiments approached to rouse his benumbed senses, and touch the strings of his heart. An injury of this nature is unpardonable even among the lowest of the sex. What then must have been the rage of a lady of quality, whose ambition was boundless, when she saw herself suddenly

thrown out of a part which she expected to perform! Vexation and revenge drove her almost to distraction; and without considering the fatal consequences that might result from her proceedings, she took advantage of her empire over her brother, to persuade him to espouse her quarrel, and make him deaf to every proposal that might be offered by the other party. In this intemperate rage we may properly trace the first cause of the fall of the Choiseuls. The Dubarrès seeing no hopes of a coalition of parties, and that the only alternative they had left, was either to effect the ruin of their opponents, or submit to be crushed by them, did not hesitate to prefer the former, and soon found a powerful ally in the Chancellor Maupeou. But we must not anticipate events.

THE Dutchess of Grammont in her views of revenge, imagined that the best method of succeeding would be to expose the infamous life of the new favourite, to swell the story of her shame, and to blacken her character so far as to make the king ashamed of the depravity of his taste. She

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was too knowing to carry on the scheme in person ; as it might prove unsuccessful, or appear like revenge, which is ever to be suspected in a forsaken mistress. Her brother also was artful enough not to attempt to inform the prince ; and they both agreed, that it would be much better for him to receive the information from the clamours of the people, which must reach his ears sooner or later. The power of the minister enabled them to spread an account of the king's new attachment thro' all quarters. Emissaries were sent into every circle, who related all the particulars that could sink her reputation ; and after having communicated her memoirs thro' the channel of the Police, some anecdotes were inserted to make her an object of ridicule and contempt, and they even went so far, as to have her burlesqued in a variety of ballads that were echoed thro' the capital and provinces.

HAND-BILLS were circulated thro' Paris for the same purpose ; among the first we have read the following :

“ *Sept.*

“ *Sept. 3, 1768.* There has lately appeared
“ at Compiègne a certain Countess Du-
“ barrè, whose figure has been the subject
“ of much conversation. It is reported
“ that she is much liked at court, and has
“ been well received by the prince. Her
“ beauty and sudden fame have excited
“ the curiosity of many. Some have en-
“ deavoured to trace the origin of this
“ lady; and if we may credit the accounts
“ that are published, she is of very low
“ birth, has raised herself by shameful me-
“ thods, and her whole life is one series
“ of baseness and infamy. A person of
“ the name of Dubarrè, who pretends to
“ be a descendant of the noble family of
“ Barrimore in Ireland, and who had her
“ married to his brother, is the secret di-
“ rector of the new mistress. People say,
“ from the taste and sagacity of this ad-
“ venturer, in what relates to pleasure,
“ that he has the ambition to aspire to
“ the office of confidante, in those amuse-
“ ments of the sovereign; and that he is
“ likely to succeed Monsieur Le Bel in that
“ department.” We may naturally sup-

pose that such a paper could not have been easily dispersed, unless some powerful hand secretly directed the circulation.

VOLTAIRE himself, in order to flatter the Choiseuils, exercised his wit on the occasion.

EXCLUSIVE of those writings, the general design of which was to collect together whatever might set the king's taste in the most degrading light, and make him ashamed of the new attachment he had formed, the Choiseuils also stirred up the resentment of the royal family, and endeavoured to raise such a fermentation among them, that his Majesty, for the sake of peace, was obliged to let the Countess still remain in a state of obscurity, not daring to have her publicly introduced at court. An introduction at court is the more essential to the mistress of the sovereign in France, as she cannot have any rank there without this ceremony; and her situation is so precarious, that she is liable to be dismissed every moment, without any provision, to which this public mark of favour gives her at least a claim,

claim, if it does not entirely screen her from disgrace, that may attend her sooner or later. In fine, Madam Dubarré had been hitherto no otherwise distinguished from the female herd of the royal deer-park, than by accompanying the prince in the different excursions he made to the country, and rivetting the chains of her august lover. She lodged at the palace of Fontainebleau all the time his majesty sojourned in that city; she might flatter herself with the exclusive possession of his heart and bed, but she never went out in his coach; she never sat at table with him in public; she could not presume to visit the Dauphin, or any of his royal brothers or sisters. The crafty ministers would doubtless have paid great respect to her recommendations; but as they might be supposed not to know her situation, they might plead ignorance, or give a denial without inconveniency. She received no visit of ceremony from the nobles or foreign ministers; and after being once presented in form, she enjoyed all those privileges, some as a matter of right, and

the rest as the offering of compliment and flattery, which custom had established. It was therefore very natural for her to aspire to this first step to honour, and this the opposite party endeavoured to prevent. She affected to give out that it would not take place. The following account was published :

“ 12th *Decemb.* 1768. It is now look-
“ ed upon as certain that the Countess
“ Dubarrè will not be introduced at court.
“ The lovely figure of this young bride
“ had attracted the eyes of all the cour-
“ tiers ; and the king seemed desirous of
“ having her enrolled among the num-
“ ber of court beauties ; but the unfav-
“ ourable impressions which the prin-
“ cesses had received relative to the origin
“ and early life of the new countess, indu-
“ ced them to beseech the king not to
“ permit her to appear in their presence.
“ His majesty has thought proper to give
“ way to those intreaties, and endeavours
“ to soften the mortification of the coun-
“ tess by every mark of attention and
“ kindness. She resides at Versailles in
“ the

“ the apartments that had been occupied
“ by Monf. Le Bel, the first valet de
“ chambre, who had introduced her to
“ the king. This vain ceremony occasi-
“ oned much noise at court, and it is
“ imagined that the jealousy of the court
“ ladies, who were under just apprehensions
“ of being eclipsed by the appearance of
“ this bright luminary, contributed in a
“ great measure to raise the general com-
“ motion against her. The ministers had
“ taken part in this affair, in which they
“ were become materially interested.”

THIS artful and malicious article could proceed only from those of the opposite faction. In a few days, however, things took another turn, or people talked rather in a more doubtful manner ; but with the appearance of decency, they still endeavoured no less to make her odious and ridiculous by turns, either by declaring the revolutions that she was to occasion, and which could not but appear fatal to the dependents of the Choiseuils, and to the people who were prejudiced in favour of their ministerial conduct, or by paint-

ing her in colours that shewed her unqualified for the part she was to appear in. The following article was printed 28th December :

“ THE Countess Dubarrè still continues
“ to engage the attention of the court
“ and city. The design of establishing her
“ at the former, and publicly introducing
“ her, is again revived. Many wagers
“ are depending at Versailles on the issue
“ of the matter. Should she obtain this
“ honour, there will no doubt be great
“ changes in the ministry. The disregard
“ which his Grace the Duke of Choiseul
“ has openly shewn to her, would not
“ permit him to remain in office. She has
“ on her side Messrs Bertin and St. Florentin,
“ the Dukes of Richlieu, and Aiguillon,
“ and all the faction of the religionists,
“ who would think it meritorious to procure
“ the dismissal of the premier by any
“ means. They look upon him as an
“ enemy to religion, and they dread his
“ keen and resolute capacity, particularly
“ with regard to ecclesiastical matters.

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“ As for Madam Dubarrè, it is reported
“ that she grows tired of the court, the
“ ceremony and restraint of which do not
“ agree with her gay and open disposition.
“ She is said to be nothing but a mere
“ machine set in motion by certain men
“ to accomplish their ambitious purposes.”

A FEW days after, the same journalist mentioned her in terms still more moderate; nay, he even became her panegyrist. This will appear in the following paragraph, of the 31st December of the same year :

“ THE general conversation at Versailles
“ is, that the Countess Dubarrè will be
“ publicly introduced the 3d of next
“ month. There is an anecdote related
“ of her that does infinite honour to her
“ heart, and displays her moderation in
“ that exalted condition to which she is
“ raised, in a manner contrary to her de-
“ sire.

“ A FEW days ago, this lady sent for
“ Monsieur Billard de Mouceau, an old
“ rent-gatherer. The old man very much
“ surprised at the invitation, obeyed the
“ summons, in some doubt whether it

“ was designed for him. He was charm-
“ ed with the polite and even chearful
“ reception he met with. The lady, af-
“ ter amusing herself with enquiries about
“ a little girl to whom he had stood spon-
“ sor, about 24 or 25 years before, and
“ having chid him for his indifference, and
“ total forgetfulness of his god-daughter,
“ shewed him a certificate of baptism to
“ prove the fact, and declared herself to
“ be that identical girl; that, considering
“ him as the dearest friend she had next
“ to her mother, she felt great pleasure in
“ renewing an acquaintance with him,
“ wished to cultivate an intimacy, and was
“ happy to have it in her power to give
“ him proofs of her gratitude and affec-
“ tion. Monsieur du Mouceau was quite
“ astonished, and could not conceal the
“ story, as it did her so much honour: it
“ now passës for authentic in Paris.”

A PARTICULAR circumstance that was
matter of fact, was a demonstration to the
court of the growing solidity and power
of the Countess Dubarrè, and of the great
interest she had in the heart of the king.

His

His Majesty, who till then kept her at a distance from his apartments and the palace, had her placed in the apartments which the late Madam Pompadour had occupied, and which were partly become an appendage of the government. The Count of Noailles thought it his duty to make some remonstrances with respect to the confusion that a change of this nature would create in his department. He attempted it, but without success; and having insisted too strenuously, thro' the warmth of his zeal, he was near losing the favour of the king. Happily, however, his majesty excused the intemperance of the governor, as proceeding from his attachment to him.

It was now no longer doubted but that the favourite would be introduced without delay. Wagers were daily laid both for and against; the losers still continued the bet, in hopes of better success another time. Among other days, Wednesday 25th January, was marked out as the happy period for the Countess. This new report was so generally believed, that numbers thro' cu-

riosity went post to Versailles, in order to be present at the ceremony. They were however disappointed in their expectations. It was then said that the delay was owing to the indisposition of the Countess of Bearn, who had been appointed mistress of the ceremony on the occasion.

THE friends of the Dubarrès pretended that Count John, so the brother-in-law was called, had requested that before the intended honour was conferred on his sister-in-law, he might have time to dissipate the injurious reflections cast upon his family, and authenticate his noble origin; that in consequence he had certificates sent from England, which contained a regular genealogy, proving his descent from the illustrious family of Barrimore.

IN the mean time the public already gratified Madam Dubarrè with many valuable landed estates. Some people said she had purchased the barony of La Lelle near St. Germain en Lay, formerly in the possession of Mons. Roussel, who sold it for 800,000 livres. Others made her mistress of the principality of Lux that had been the property

property of the House of Luxembourg; and this acquisition was believed not so much on account of its real value, as on that of the brilliant title of princess which it would give her a right to assume.

THE Countess of Bearn, whom public rumour had declared sponsor at the intended introduction of the Countess, received particular marks of favour at this time, which confirmed the part she was to perform. Her son, Viscount Bearn, had just quitted the condition of page to the king: he was an intimate companion of the son of Count John, then page likewise to his majesty, and afterwards known by the title of Viscount Adolphus. This young gentleman having entered the regiment of Carabineers, was soon after introduced to his majesty. He was most graciously received; he had the use of his majesty's equipages, and from that moment was admitted to all the parties of pleasure in the private apartments.

WHAT the deep politicians then doubted, has since been acknowledged; that the delay of introducing the Countess Dubarré proceeded

proceeded only from the goodness of the prince, who wished to avoid giving any umbrage to his family, and waited for an opportunity of finding them in a better humour for such an event. He was not ignorant that the princesses were stimulated under hand to oppose the introduction. In consequence of this, the Duke of Vauguyon was commissioned to inform Madam Adelaide of his majesty's intentions, and to persuade that princess to conform to the will of her august father. This negotiation did not succeed so quickly as the monarch wished. The Choiseuls, whose influence still prevailed, animated the princesses to adhere to their resolution; and to increase their aversion still more to those measures, they painted the base origin of the favourite in the most extravagant colours, and exaggerated the depravity of her private conduct, as well as the infamy of her public life: and the better to confirm their repugnance, as they could not presume to lay before them the indelicate couplets that had been made on the Countess, and sensible that this method of conveying scandal

scandal thro' the channel of ballads was the most severe, as well as the most effectual and indelible, they had verses composed, that expressed the same meaning in fact, but in a more artful and delicate manner, and consequently contained greater severity and malice. The satire in them was dressed in the style and ornaments of the Graces, which exclusive of the historical facts that they proved, made them valuable on account of their intrinsic merit.

BUT they were so far from being ruinous or even injurious to Madam Dubarré, as her enemies had expected, that they served only to increase the ardour of her lover. It is well known that passions grow stronger by opposition, and that those of old men in particular are most obstinate on such occasions. This was easily seen in the conduct of the sovereign. That prince being desirous to have the favourite nearer to him, ordered the apartments of the late Dauphiness to be given to Madam Adelaide, and fixed Madam Dubarré in those of the princess. This arrangement

rangement was necessary to the pleasures of the king, that he might easily, and at any moment, enjoy the secret charms of his mistress. He gave himself but little concern about the uneasiness of the Princesses, who were thus separated from their sister, in order to make room for a new neighbour, whom they detested still more and more. The managers of this removal insinuated, that if they had a real affection for their august father, they should sacrifice every thing to his satisfaction without murmuring.

FROM all those particular machinations of the Choiseuils, from their animosity and violence in exclaiming against the new favourite of fortune, in reviling her, and circulating the most scandalous reports and infamous stories, it became necessary for the Dubarrès not only to defend themselves, but likewise to attack their formidable enemies; and as they could not do it openly, to endeavour to undermine them gradually, and by secret measures. This species of polite treachery, of slow and premeditated malice and villainy, did not suit the disposition of a young, giddy, artless

artless female, who was accustomed to say every thing that came into her head, without regard to the consequence. The Countess therefore did not attempt to conceal her hatred against those enemies, who wantonly provoked her resentment; but substituting humour instead of the bitterness that generally accompanies those disputes, she made a jest of what excited the most violent rage in others. We cannot forget that about this time she amused herself with a play that was quite childish, which however was a prelude to the great events that followed: she frequently used to take an orange in each hand, and throwing them up in the air alternately, cried out in a jocular manner, *Fly away Choiseul, fly away Praslin.*

THE revolution however that took place, was not effected suddenly. The great credit of the minister, that colossus of influence and power, like a towering oak that with its head seemed to touch the skies, and with its roots to penetrate the infernal regions, struck awe into those very people who were most eager for his downfall. No
lady

lady had resolution enough to attempt the introduction of Madam Dubarrè: the Countess of Bearn, who at first intended to perform the ceremony, was restrained by the consequences she was made to apprehend. However as she had agreed to undertake it, in order to elude the promise, she pretended to have strained her foot, to have an apology for confining herself to the house.

COUNT John then, who was the soul of the whole intrigue, perceiving the necessity of fixing the King by an authentic act of acknowledgement, bent his thoughts another way. He found out a certain Madam D'Alogny, who, though qualified for admission to court, had not however appeared there. She was a lady of no great reputation in Paris. He did not find it difficult to dazzle her with fine promises: she was therefore introduced, and considered as the person who was to supply the place of Madam Bearn. The design of this ceremony was so publicly talked of, that the Princess Adelaide (as report then said) was so displeased with the

part

part Madam D'Alogny was about to perform, that when she was introduced to her, and kneeling, agreeably to the etiquette, in order to kiss the hem of her garment, she was so very far from raising her, or presenting her hand to kiss, as was usual, that she even suffered her to remain in that humiliating posture.

THE intended introduction however was now looked upon as certain, as the Marquis of Marigny had given orders about this time to the comptrollers of the several royal habitations, such as Marli, Choisi, Bellevue, to fit up the apartments of the late Marchioness of Pompadour, in the same manner as they had been; and to restore all the communications between them and those of the sovereign. Hence it was concluded that Madam Dubarré would move about to those places, to which none were admitted but ladies who had been introduced and appointed by his majesty; and as the season approached for those country excursions, the hour for the ceremony seemed to be at hand.

ALMOST

ALMOST a month however had elapsed since the death of Madam D'Alogny, the second intended sponsor; this revived the hopes of the opposite party, and encouraged them to think that his majesty was still perplexed, and timorous of opposing the desires of his family in so public a manner. Various introductions that happened during that interval, corroborated their conjectures, and numberless wagers were now laid about the matter.

THE Count Dubarrè at length advised his sister-in-law to exert the last resource which could not fail of being most efficacious. She threw herself in tears at the feet of her lover: she conjured him by all the tenderness and love that he was pleased to shew her, not to leave her exposed to the injurious attacks of her enemies; she earnestly begged of him to silence their malice by declaring his favour and kindness for her in a solemn manner, and thus shelter her under the wings of his royal protection. This scene, which was acted in the most pathetic manner, had all the wished-for effect.

SEVERAL

SEVERAL messengers were sent from Versailles in the evening of the 22d of April, to notify that the Countess Dubarrè had been publicly introduced that day, when the king returned from hunting. This occasioned a great stir and bustle in Paris. It was asserted that all the foreign ministers were to dispatch couriers that very night to their respective courts, to make known the important news. As there is no better method of ascertaining facts than by the testimony of contemporary writers, and that, in accounts of this nature, where so many people are interested in disguising the truth, the first general cry is always the best, the most authentic, and best calculated to prove the effect they produce; we shall therefore give our readers the accounts as they were published the 25th of April, three days after the introduction:

“ His majesty, after a long struggle
“ about the introduction of the Countess,
“ was at length worked into a compliance
“ by the repeated solicitations of that
“ lady, who considered as reproachful the
“ suspension

“ suspension of a ceremony, that had been
“ long since talked of, and frequently men-
“ tioned in the foreign newspapers. Mov-
“ ed by her tears and intreaties he at length
“ has fixed his gracious resolution.

“ IN consequence whereof, on Friday
“ the 21st, after returning from the chase,
“ his majesty gave notice that there would
“ be a presentation at court the day fol-
“ lowing; that it would be single; and
“ one that had been long expected; in fine,
“ he declared that Madam Dubarrè would
“ be the subject.

“ IN the evening a jeweller carried
“ diamonds to the lady to the amount of
“ one hundred thousand livres.

“ THE next day such numbers appeared
“ at court, that it was thought to be more
“ more crowded than on the marriage of
“ the Duke of Chartres; so that the sove-
“ reign, astonished at such a deluge of spec-
“ tators, asked if the palace was on fire.

“ THE Countess Dubarrè was very well
“ received by the princesses, and even had
“ particular marks of favour shewn her.
“ The next day being Sunday, she was
present

“ present while they were at dinner. Every
“ spectator admired the dignity of her car-
“ riage, her graceful attitudes and motions.
“ The part of a court lady is generally
“ stiff and awkward the first days of per-
“ formance, but Madam Dubarré acquit-
“ ted herself with as much ease as if she
“ had been long habituated to the prac-
“ tice.

“ EVER since, the Countess Dubarré
“ gives suppers, to which she invites the
“ nobility and foreign ministers; it is af-
“ firmed that she concludes her invitation
“ with these words: *His Majesty will ho-
“ nour me with his company.*

“ By some fatality inseparable from al-
“ most all human felicity, it is apprehended
“ that the happiness of this idolized mis-
“ tress, now at the very summit of great-
“ ness, is not without alloy. People have
“ observed for some time past an altera-
“ tion in her health; she grows thinner;
“ and those who are apt to make the worst
“ of every thing, pretend to say that this
“ wasting surely portends her approaching
“ dissolution.”

It

It was the Countess of Bearn who officiated at the ceremony of introduction. The general opinion was, that she received a gratuity of 100,000 livres for her complaisance.

THIS event, and the part which the lady performed on that occasion and afterwards, being the only female about court who associated with the favourite, made her the subject of much conversation, and occasioned many enquiries about her origin. It was asserted that she was a lady of quality, in poor circumstances, who had been married to a gentleman of Perigard, an officer in the life-guards, of no fortune, who died some years ago in obscurity, without being honoured even with the order of St. Louis. Madam de Bearn being a woman of art and intrigue, made a journey to Paris, in order to carry on a law-suit, the origin of which went so far back as the time of the celebrated Montaigne; who, by a lame clause in the article of marriage of his daughter, had given room for a contest that began above a century ago, between
the

the ancestors of Madam de Bearn and those of the family of Saluces. This lady being determined to bring this important dispute to a conclusion, it being an object of more than 100,000 crowns, having but little money to proceed with, made herself known to several persons at court to whom she was related, and among others to the Dutchess of Aiguillon. By perseverance and application she succeeded so far at first, as to obtain a considerable provision, which enabled her to make an appearance suitable to her birth, and to obtain credit. She made such use of the opportunity, that she launched out into extravagance; the more readily too as she had not been accustomed to that train of life; so that notwithstanding the powerful supplies she had obtained from the decision of the law, she was still involved. Those circumstances, and her being related to the family of Aiguillon and Richlieu, naturally threw her on the side of the Countess Dubarrè, and determined her to the step she had taken. She had, however, gained her cause in the interim; but being already

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engaged,

engaged, and wanting assistance besides, to provide for five children she had, she overleaped those prejudices which might have restrained other court ladies, unawed by the fear of becoming an object of their censure or ridicule, which she was very capable of returning by her wit and lively talents for repartee.

SHE therefore accompanied Madam Dubarrè in the journey to Marli, which happened soon after the introduction of the latter. Marli is a delightful rural residence, designed as a place of retirement and relaxation for the heads of the state, from the fatigue of business in winter, and the pleasures of that season.

THE king was in hopes that the proximity of this place to Paris, would make the favourite more familiar at court; but the expectations of his majesty were disappointed. A gloomy dulness prevailed. The ladies could not as yet familiarize themselves to the new beauty of the place, who far outshone them. It is even affirmed, that the Princess of Guémené had openly affronted her in the presence of the sovereign;

sovereign; which gave great offence to his majesty. She was dismissed from her attendance on the young princesses, to whom she had been appointed governess, after the death of the Countess of Marfan.

OTHERS, without shewing any exterior marks of contempt, did not associate with her; so that Madam Dubarrè, Madam de Bearn, and Madam D'Alogny, formed a separate trio. The favourite, at this first excursion, had no regular quarters allotted her. She lodged in the palace in a small apartment next the king's, that was fitted up for the purpose.

THE consternation or stupidity of the court had a visible effect even on the spirit of gaming, which was less animated than usual. Many noblemen declined cutting in, under the pretext of wanting money; so that the journey ended without being remarkable as others had been, for sacrificing many wretched victims to that destructive passion. The capricious humours and intrigues of the women engrossed the attention, and prevented the rage of play from being carried to excess.

MADAM Dubarrè however played. We are told that one day, while she was engaged at pharoah, upon seeing the fatal card turned up against her, she exclaimed inconsiderately, *I am finely cooked*. The expression did not escape notice. The winner, while he took her money, made answer, "*We have no room to doubt what you say, Madam; you must be the best judge in those matters.*" The remark was severe, as it alluded to the profession of her mother, who had been a cook-maid.

IN fine, the excursion, which could not be agreeable to Madam Dubarrè on account of the frequent mortifications she experienced, was concluded; and the Court returned to Versailles with as little satisfaction as they had left it.

THE retiring of Marshal d'Estrees from the council, on account of his ill state of health, was an event of greater importance, and engaged the attention of the courtiers at this critical period. For, though the death or retreat of a minister, by making a vacancy in the council, does not absolutely require it to be filled up, it

was

was not however supposed, that this place would remain vacant. Every body was therefore curious to know what choice his majesty would make on account of the circumstances, and the consequences that might be deduced from such a resolution. The Dukes of Richlieu and Aiguillon were on the list; and should either of those noblemen be appointed, as was conjectured, such an event would demonstrate the apparent influence of their party, and of course the declining interest of the opposite faction. The most able politicians were then of opinion, however, that the Duke of Choiseuil would not be dismissed. They thought him so secure by his own power and influence, and by the interest of foreign states, to whom he was in general very acceptable; and he appeared so necessary from his intimate knowledge of all the various intrigues carrying on in Europe, that they looked upon it as difficult to remove him from the ministry, where he laboured with such abilities. This reason, however, was but trifling. In courts we have frequently observed the

most useful men sacrificed to little private passions. But the hour of triumph—to the adverse faction, was not yet arrived; it was necessary to proceed slowly, and work upon the king with caution. Madam Dubarrè, while her friends were thus scheming for her, indulged the natural gaiety of her temper, and amused herself with little scenes of humour, which soothed her vanity, and did some honour to her heart: hence it was concluded, that she was not unmindful of herself. Her interview with Mr. Dumouceau, her father-in-law, is a proof of this; that anecdote afforded much pleasure and entertainment. There has been a short account of the affair already published in one of the newspapers, which we have quoted; but we shall gratify our readers with a more exact and circumstantial narrative.

WE have observed in the beginning how that financier had deserted and entirely forgot his god-daughter. Age had so far deadened his inclination for the sex, that he was no longer curious about affairs of gallantry; he only heard what was known
to

to every body, that a lady of pleasure had been introduced into the royal bed ; but the change of name, and other circumstances of her story, that were but little known, prevented him from suspecting his god-daughter to be the fortunate heroine, that had been raised to the brilliant rank of favourite mistress. Moreover, she had not been introduced at court as yet, and the vulgar stories which the Choiseuils endeavoured to circulate with regard to the origin and early life of Madam Dubarrè, could not but mislead and deceive him. Judge then how great his astonishment, when he received an invitation from the Countess Dubarrè in *rué des Petits Champs*, where she then resided ! He was so bewildered in thought, that he could not form any probable conjecture. Besides, he might perhaps have been guilty of some indiscretion, and imprudently repeated one or other of the fabulous stories that had been fabricated to vilify the lady's reputation. He could not however refuse going to the place appointed. He made his appearance there, more dead than alive. His apprehensions

in all probability affected his sight, and prevented him from recollecting a figure, which could not have escaped him on any other occasion. We may readily suppose, that his terror and confusion afforded no small entertainment to his god-daughter. After enjoying his uneasiness for a while, she told him that she would be glad, if he could give her any information about a god-daughter of his, who had been an intimate companion and friend of hers, at Mr. Labille's, the haberdasher's; that her curiosity proceeded from her affectionate regard to the girl. This was a new subject of confusion to the old man, as it reminded him of his culpable neglect. He confessed his ignorance of the fate of that young lady. He apologized for his conduct, by observing, That the mother had seduced her youth, and so far corrupted her morals, that he had abandoned her entirely. For shame! she said, how could you desert her, at the very time when your protection and assistance were most necessary? Your neglect, instead of recalling her from the paths of error,
may

may have been the occasion of her sinking into the depths of depravity, beyond a possibility of her recovery. Would you not rejoice, said she, to find her again? Should you know her again? The old man now began to recover from his terror and uneasiness, and assuming more courage, replied, with a faltering accent, Most undoubtedly I should know her; I daily repent of my cruelty. Well then, know her, added the Countess hastily, you have her before you; I am the person. Nothing could exceed the confusion of Mons. Dumouceau at this eclaireissement. A thousand different ideas which he could not account for, crowded upon his imagination at once; his fears returned, and absorbed every other sentiment, until the affability, kindness, and tender behaviour of his ward, which even softened her into tears, had dispelled those apprehensions, and called up every sentiment of gratitude. He sunk with emotion at her feet, and kissed her hand with the most respectful ardour. The Countess assisted him to get up, assuring him at the same time, that she had forgot his anger and passion, remembered

only the favours she had received from him, and that one of the most flattering circumstances in her present elevation, was the power she had of repaying him a hundred-fold for all the obligations he had conferred upon her. And indeed he possessed ever after great interest with his god-daughter, which he has not abused : this plainly appeared in the unhappy case of Billard his relation. Madam Dubarrè did every thing possible, in order to save him. Her efforts in favour of the criminal proved unsuccessful, owing to an unfortunate rupture at that time between her and the chancellor.

ALL Paris heard of the visit the Countess paid to Madam de la Garde : her dress and equipage were of the most splendid kind on the occasion. After thus mortifying the pride of that haughty Financier's Lady by this pomp and parade, in one who had formerly been her attendant ; she then assured her of the most grateful disposition, promising to exert all her interest and friendship for the children ; nor did she fail to serve them with the most zealous protection.

THE

THE adventure she had with the Count de Coigni, in the winter before she was introduced at Court, did not prove so agreeable. That officer was just returned from Corfica, and impatient to renew his connections with the fair sex, which had been entirely suspended during his stay in that island, where the women are ugly, ill-bred and disgusting; the moment he arrived in Paris, he waited on Mademoiselle L'Ange, of whose good fortune he was totally ignorant: besides the affair was still doubtful. The lady, at first, flattered by the attention of that nobleman, received him with her usual politeness and good humour: this encouraged him to a greater familiarity and freedom. The Countess, whose connection with the king was still a secret, did not think herself authorised to assume the character of royal mistress, in order to check the forwardness of the Count; she only told him that she was married. — O, married! — To whom? — To Count Dubarré, brother to him at whose house you visited me. — You banter surely, my

D 6 dear..

dear.—But tho' you were married—what then?—'Tis a circumstance will give a new relish to our enjoyment. You will have the pleasure of adding one more to the long list of cuckolds you have made.

THE Count was now grown more warm and pressing; the Countess found it necessary to express her dissatisfaction; she assumed an air of dignity, and told him that weighty reasons opposed a repetition of his visits; that she was willing to forgive his impertinence on account of their former connections, to which a superior cause must now be an eternal bar; the public however would soon inform him of those matters. She then rung her bell, ordered the Count's servants to be called, to wait on their master out, and thus dismissed him with an air of majesty that filled him with the utmost confusion and astonishment. Being soon after informed of the blunder he had committed, he wrote a most respectful letter to the favourite, and begged of her to attribute his presumption to his ignorance. We have not heard that
she

she ever expressed the least resentment about this affair.

It is farther observed, in justice to Madam Dubarrè, that no lady, however accustomed by rank or birth to the pomp and splendor of high life, ever behaved with more moderation and discretion in the exalted situation to which she was raised. Far from being intoxicated with her elevation, she displayed a prudence and caution beyond what could have been expected. Being sensible how much she was exposed to the jealousy of so many rivals of her charms and power, she assumed a modesty that must have silenced and disarmed them, if it was possible to subdue envy. While she lived with all the splendor that her rank required, she personally avoided all public ceremony. The day after she had been presented at court, which was Whitsunday, the people flocked to Versailles in hopes of seeing her; but they were disappointed: she did not appear the whole day.

SHE solicited no favours for herself or family, and seemed to have no other wish
or

or desire, but to merit the esteem and favour of the prince by her zeal and attachment to his person.

BUT what was most extraordinary, her royal lover, whose passion was then unbounded, who could not bear to be a moment without her, never thought of making any provision for her. He only gave her one half of a place of farmer-general of St. Virly, to which he had not nominated any person: he gave the other half to the son-in-law of Monsieur Andouillé, who had the reversion of the place of sergent-surgeon.

MADAM Dubarré not only neglected herself and friends, but by a rare instance of generosity, obtained favours for her enemies.

COUNT de Stainville, brother to the Duke de Choiseuil, obtained the reversion of the government of Strasbourg. That city is the key of the kingdom. The place is generally conferred on the oldest marshal of France, as being a post of the utmost confidence and importance. This deviation from a long established custom, was a
proof

proof of the most signal favour; and more particularly so, as it was considered as an earnest of the baton of Marshal of France: besides, from the great age of Marshal Balincourt, who was then governor of the place, the Count in all appearance had not long to wait for possession. It was thought, therefore, that this new favour conferred on the family of Choiseuil was not bestowed, at least without consulting Madam Dubarré. Those who were unwilling to attribute her conduct on this occasion to the genuine sentiments of true greatness, ascribed it to policy. It is certain that the king, to whom Choiseuil then appeared a necessary minister, endeavoured to affect a reconciliation between him and his mistress. The supper that was given a few days after at Belle-Vue leaves no room to doubt this. The Duke and Madam Dubarré were of the party, and the Dutchess of Grammont might have been there likewise, had that haughty lady desired it; this at least was the common report among the courtiers. As this supper was an ob-
ject

ject of universal curiosity at the time, we shall give our readers the particulars as they were circulated in hand-bills.

“ WE have collected with care and attention the particulars of the famous supper on Thursday last, on account of the important consequences it may produce; as this is the true thermometer by which the courtiers are to be directed, in calculating the degrees of heat and cold, necessary to be used in their future addresses and assiduity. It is related, that the lady of Marshal de Mirepoix, and Madam Flavacourt arrived first, and were walking in the gardens of Belle-Vue when the Duke of Choiseuil entered with his train, and formed a group on the opposite side. The company, as they went in, turned to the right or left, as their inclinations led, and increased one or other party; sarcasm and raillery were flying about on both sides, when the king made his appearance. His majesty advanced to Madam Dubarrè, paid her many compliments, expressed his satisfaction of
“ enjoying

“ enjoying her company for the first time
 “ in that agreeable place, and politely
 “ offered to shew her all its beauties. In
 “ the mean while, the Duke of Choiseuil
 “ remained unnoticed with his followers,
 “ who gradually diminished, until at
 “ length he was left walking alone. When
 “ the hour of supper came, the king
 “ placed the favourite next himself, and
 “ on her right hand Count la March,
 “ well knowing he said, his friendship for
 “ that lady.—The rest of the company
 “ might sit where they would. The king
 “ and a great number of the guests were
 “ perfectly gay and sprightly all the time
 “ of supper, but the Duke of Choiseuil did
 “ not display that serenity and good
 “ humour which he generally shews on
 “ occasions of such festivity. He con-
 “ versed with none but those who sat
 “ near him. The Countess behaved with
 “ the same ease she had shewn at her
 “ first introduction. Her wit, her viva-
 “ city and charms shone with equal lustre.
 “ After supper the king, having the guests
 “ to play, desired a table for the Countess,
 and

“ and the game that was most pleasing to
“ her. Madam Flavacourt requested to be
“ of the party, and Marshal Richlieu like-
“ wise, adding, That he was perfectly de-
“ voted to the service of Madam Dubarrè.
“ The king made up a party at whist, of
“ which the Duke of Choiseuil was one, ac-
“ cording to custom. The next morning,
“ after his Majesty was dressed, he went
“ with the captain of the guards, and
“ his first gentleman of the bed-chamber,
“ to the toilette of Madam Dubarrè,
“ where he staid an hour. The young
“ Dubarrè, nephew to the Countess, who
“ had lately been one of the pages of
“ the king’s bed-chamber, had the honour
“ to be invited to the supper.”

SUCH is the account, as published of
this supper; whence every one formed con-
jectures as fancy suggested. The depar-
ture of the Duke of Choiseuil a few days
after, for his estate of Chanteloup, gave
birth to new surmises. As it was not
usual with him, at that season of the year,
to take such a journey, it gave some peo-
ple a plausible pretence to spread a re-
port

port of his having been dismissed. Others on the contrary said, that it was a politic resolution in the minister, in order to know precisely what he had to expect. Being persuaded, that if his interest suffered nothing by his absence, he should then be superior to every future attack. They added, that this bold step by proving successful, silenced every unfavourable report that had been circulated on that account, and was a farther confirmation to the whole kingdom of the confidence the monarch reposed in him.

It is certain, that many persons were deceived by this politic resolution of the Duke, who in fact, returned from Chanteloup without any visible decrease of favour; but unfortunately that of the Countess daily augmented, a circumstance that could not fail sooner or later being fatal to him. The public was convinced of this, by a distinguished gift of his Majesty. He made a present of Lucienne to his mistress. That delightful villa had been given to the Countess of Toulouse, for whom the king had a particular love and veneration.

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At the death of that princess, he made a present of it to the Duke of Penthièvre, who having had the misfortune to lose his son the prince of Lamballe there, conceived a dislike to the place, and returned it to his master. It is a most delicious habitation, calculated merely for pleasure, and of no other use; it is even too confined for a lady who has to entertain the monarch and his court. Madam Dubarrè has since built an additional wing, of which we shall take notice in another place.

Soon after the supper at Belle-Vue, the favourite observing, that some ladies of quality paid assiduous attention to her, thought she might dispense with the attendance of the Countess of Bearn, who had acted as mistress of the ceremony, at her first introduction at Court. From that period she had been her constant companion; she has been even nominated one of the first of the company for a second tour to Marli. Madam Dubarrè wrote her a letter, to acquaint her with the intended separation. Copies of the letter were

were handed about. The contents were as follow :

Madam,

“ I CANNOT sufficiently thank you for
 “ your kind complaisance and attention to
 “ me. It would be an abuse of your fa-
 “ vours, if I laid you under any farther
 “ restraint. I beg you will therefore enjoy
 “ that liberty which I know you love, and
 “ of which you have so long deprived
 “ yourself out of a partial regard to me.
 “ It would be exacting too much from
 “ friendship, to desire a continuance of the
 “ sacrifice. You have frequently hinted
 “ your dislike to a place for which you
 “ are better calculated than I am, and
 “ where however we in a manner first made
 “ our appearance together. You have
 “ business in Paris. As soon as the jour-
 “ ney to Marli is over, I beg the favour of
 “ you to indulge your wishes and put
 “ yourself to no farther inconvenience
 “ about me. Go and amuse yourself at
 “ the palace of Luxemburg. Leave me
 “ to the hurry and bustle of Versailles,
 “ where,

“where, you may be assured, I shall never forget you.”

THIS epistle was the subject of much criticism. Some people declared they could see nothing in it but the good-nature of Madam Dubarrè, and sincere desire to avoid any farther restraint to a lady, who from choice, had always shunned the Court, and that formality and ceremony so foreign to her vivacity and temper. Others fancied, they discovered ingratitude, too frequent among courtiers. They said that Madam de Bearn, whose person was far from agreeable, and whose conduct did not correspond with her birth or education, had displeased the king; and that Madam Dubarrè having no longer occasion for her, as has been already remarked, far from opposing the will of her illustrious lover, had sacrificed her without any hesitation. And certain it is, that, from this time, all intimacy between them ceased. It is more probable that Count John, who was the Mentor of his sister-in-law, had conceived apprehensions from the intriguing spirit of the god-mother, and thought it necessary

fary to remove her, before she had gained a greater ascendant over the royal mistress.

AGAIN, this removal was a farther confirmation of the increasing influence of the favourite at Court ; as the ladies who had before avoided her, now began to seek her acquaintance. But a still stronger testimony of this matter, was the homage paid her by men of letters. The first offering of the kind made to that lady, is thus related in one of the newspapers :

“ 11 JUNE, 1773. Tho’ it is the province
“ of the muses to sing the graces, still the
“ beauty, talents and virtues of the Coun-
“ tess Dubarré, had till now remained in
“ unjust obscurity, notwithstanding her
“ introduction at Court had placed them
“ in so elevated a point of view. All the
“ literary gentlemen, whether from re-
“ spect or admiration, had neglected to
“ burn incense on the altar of this new
“ divinity. The Chevalier de la Mor-
“ liere, more daring or fortunate, has
“ lately dedicated a book to her, on the
“ doctrine of Fatality ; this work is a col-
“ lection of particular stories, calculated
“ to

“ to prove, that there is no avoiding our
“ fatal destiny. By this artful manœuvre,
“ the author will escape the fate of bad
“ books ; this composition, which does not
“ even rise to mediocrity, has a most ra-
“ pid sale. Every person is impatient to
“ read the preface. It is generally be-
“ lieved, that Mr. de la Morliere had a
“ tacit permission from the modesty of the
“ lady, and that his example will be fol-
“ lowed by some panegyrist more worthy
“ of the heroine.”

THE journalist was right ; all the men of letters gradually took shelter under the wings of the new Minerva. The Duke of Choiseuil, the Dutches of Grammont, his sister, and their party, restrained them for some time. Their vanity and self-love was flattered, by insinuating how much they would debase themselves, in prostituting their pens to dignify the character of this illiterate Urania, who could scarce read. But the captivating gale of favour, blowing entirely from that quarter, all, even to the philosophers, and authors of every art and science, bowed the knee to the idol.

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AND indeed it was no wonder that men destitute of interest or protection, and sometimes labouring under all the distresses of poverty, should follow the example of personages of the highest rank. An anecdote is related of the Duke of Tremes, that manifest to what a depth of prostitution a courtier is capable of sinking. This titled resemblance of man went to Marli, in order to see the Countess, and not happening to meet with her, wrote to her in the following terms: *The little jackanapes of the Countess Dubarrè has been to pay his devoirs to that lady.* In order to comprehend all the meanness of this term, the reader must observe, that the Duke is much deformed; that the Countess used to make a jest of his hump-back; and that this despicable courtier thought himself happy in being an object of mirth even in that ridiculous light. Hence we may form an idea of the turn of mind of the lady, of her behaviour at court, and the manners that prevailed there through her example.

A SPECIES of adulation more insipid and no less extravagant, induced another

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courtier

courtier to compose the following lines : They were written at St. Hubert, where the king went to observe the tranfit of Venus, a phenomenon that then engaged the attention of the Academy of Sciences. The Prince was a lover of the arts, and had a relish for their most sublime speculations ; he held the telescope to the eye of his new mistress, as he had already given her some lessons in astronomy, sufficient to make the phenomenon interesting. This was the subject that inspired our poet. He thus addresses himself to the nobles who attended his majesty on the occasion :

What can this telescope explain,
This Venus, or this God of Day ?
The apparatus all is vain,
A brighter horoscope survey.
In those delicious gardens move,
Stars of more propitious light.

MR. de Maupeou, the new chancellor, naturally fawning and supple, was not the last to adore the rising sun. He claimed kindred with the Dubarrès ; and this affinity, of which nobody before had
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the least idea, became very public, by his frequently addressing the Countess with the familiar appellation of cousin. It was even related, that having purposely waited on that lady, at an hour when there was a large company, and as every one arose out of respect to his gown, he begged that they might use no ceremony with him, observing that he visited only as a relation, and he was one of the family.

THE above magistrate had about this time, a more becoming opportunity of complimenting his pretended cousin, as it shewed her goodness of heart in a most conspicuous light. The affair was this—A young girl, from a place called Leancourt, was pregnant by the rector of the parish. The latter died soon after. The girl, either thro' shame, or out of respect to the memory of her pastor, had omitted to declare her pregnancy as the law requires, and was at length delivered of a stillborn child, owing to a weak habit of body, which grief and anxiety had naturally occasioned. The judges had taken cognisance of the affair, and sentenced the

unfortunate mother to be hanged, as guilty of procuring an abortion ; for not having complied with the letter of the law, which expressly enjoins a previous declaration in those cases. The sentence had been lately confirmed by the parliament, and the prisoner was to be sent back to be executed in the place where the affair happened.

A GENTLEMAN belonging to the Musketeers, of the name of Mandeville, having heard the story at a house where he dined, was greatly affected, as were all the company present. He proposed to have a memorial of the affair drawn up immediately, and go to Marli, where the Court then was, in order to solicit a pardon for the unfortunate creature. The account being properly set forth in a petition, he set off, and waited on the Countess Duba~~ba~~. Though he was not known to the lady, he however flattered himself that he should interest her compassionate feelings : he was not mistaken : the case appeared to her in so favourable a light, that she wrote a letter that very moment to the chancellor, copies of which were taken ;
and

and this not only refutes the calumny of those who falsely asserted her incapacity to write, but likewise proves the power of the native eloquence of the heart. The letter was as follows :

“ Mr. Chancellor,

“ I KNOW nothing about your laws ;
“ but they are unjust and barbarous ; they
“ are contrary to every principle of po-
“ licy, reason, and humanity, if they
“ hang a poor girl that happens to be
“ delivered of a stillborn infant, without a
“ previous declaration of her pregnancy.
“ According to the memorial here annex-
“ ed, the petitioner is thus circumstanced ;
“ it appears that her condemnation has
“ arisen either from her ignorance of the
“ law, or from her silence, which pro-
“ ceeded from a modesty that was entirely
“ natural. I beg you to re-consider this
“ affair with impartiality and tenderness :
“ the unfortunate girl merits compassion
“ and lenity. I request, at least, a mi-
“ tigation of the sentence ; but your own

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“ feelings

“ feelings will, I doubt not, suggest what
“ is right.

“ I have the honour to be, &c.”

MR. Mandeville carried the letter to the chancellor, who ordered a reprieve ; and having made proper enquiries into the matter, thought proper to pardon the girl. All Paris was loud in applauding this generous act of humanity, that did equal honour to the Musketeer, the Countess, and the Chancellor.

WHILE thus Madam Dubarrè was exerting her influence in the cause of benevolence and generosity, it was necessary for her friends to be watchful of her public conduct, and guard her against the secret designs of her enemies. Happily she had a friend among the courtiers very expert in these intrigues, and whose long acquaintance with the character of the master, qualified him to instruct her admirably well : This friend alluded to, was the Marshal Duke of Richlieu. This nobleman, who was the avowed adherent of the favourite, perceived that he was grown
odious

odious to his enemies, and that it became necessary for him to use all his efforts to supplant them. But he acted with great art and caution, and endeavoured as much as possible to persuade the Duke of Choiseuil that he was still devoted to him. A trifling incident that happened during the second journey to Marli, is a proof of this.

ON a Sunday, when it happened to rain, as the Duke of Richlieu was going to the king's chapel with a *parepluye*, meeting the Duke of Choiseuil without any such protection against this unexpected shower, he offered him shelter; as they went on together, the minister said to the marshal laughing, What will the courtiers think at seeing us thus linked together? That we are two heads in one bonnet, replied Richlieu. These two noblemen separated when they reached the chapel; the weather cleared up, and the service being over, the Duke of Choiseuil signified to the Marshal, That he thanked him for his politeness, had no farther occasion for the favour, and was going another way. The latter answered

in a loud voice, You are right, my Lord, the weather is indeed now fair, you do not want my assistance; but should a storm arise, you may depend on me, I am your fast friend.

It has been affirmed, that during this excursion, the Duke of Choiseul come to a full explanation with the king relative to the Countess Dubarrè; he protested his respect for the will of his master, as well as for the object of his favour and attention: at the same time he begged of him not to make him accountable for the supercilious pride of his wife and sister: he assured his majesty that he had done all in his power to reconcile them to another behaviour; that the former, over whom he had the greatest influence, had, at least, acted with decency on the occasion; having out of delicacy made a journey to Chanteloup, that she might not appear to neglect the duty which the choice of her sovereign prescribed: this journey, however, was censured, as too early and unseasonable, when the whole Court was sensible that it was customary at that time of
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the year: that in regard to his sister, she was of a headstrong violent temper, and he despaired of bringing her to reason: that he imagined perhaps there might be in those humours and flashes of passion, some mixture of sentiments which it did not become him to scrutinize before his majesty, but which might palliate a conduct founded on jealousy that originated in the feelings of the heart. Thus the courtiers talked without perhaps ever hearing a word of any such conversation: but what gave credit to the report was, that less antipathy and reserve were afterwards observed between the two personages; and it was even known that the minister had accompanied the favourite in one of the three tours which she had successively made to Triel. This was a magnificent feat that Monsieur Roussel, a former-general, who was then declared bankrupt, wanted to make sale of.

THE momentary interruption to the war that was declared between the two persons in question, gave a more lively and chearful air to the Court. It was at a

time when his majesty moved about most, visiting his different palaces, and continually shifting his residence, in order to elude uneasiness by variety. Endeavours were used to make the journey to Marli particularly agreeable, to Madam Dubarrè, by entertainments and shows that would be pleasing to her; his majesty was the more desirous of distinguishing this epoch, as it was the first visit the favourite had made to the place. The presence of this new divinity necessarily prevented the princesses from appearing there: so that he was at liberty to give a loose to all the extravagancies which his passion for his mistress inspired. Preparations were made to perform pieces of the gayest kind, without being over strict in regard to decency. The three theatres contributed to the entertainments. Unfortunately, however, the execution was not equal to the magnificence. The Italian comedians, by a preposterous choice, played *Alix and Alexis*, a comic opera of Anthony Poinfinet, or as he was otherwise called in derision *Don Antonio Poinfinetto*, from being

being the manager of a company of players in the service of his Catholic majesty. The music was composed by La Borde, first valet de chambre to his majesty, who had the indiscretion to propose this piece, which had been first represented on the theatre belonging to Mademoiselle Guimard:

THE Court, however, was roused out of the gloomy reflections and melancholy into which so many domestic losses had plunged them; they were gradually prepared for the joy and pleasures which the young Archdutchess, the intended consort of the Dauphin, was about to introduce.

WHAT gave the king the greatest pleasure in this journey, was to see that the ladies of quality, who at first shewed such dislike to his mistress, and who had conspired together to avoid appearing in her company, were now gradually shaking off that reserve, and seemed captivated by her sweetness and sprightly sallies. No less than fifteen or sixteen of those ladies were present at Choisi, where every thing was conducted with the most perfect harmony. Madam Dubarrè behaved with all that

openness and freedom with which she had won the heart of his majesty. She spent the greatest part of the day at her toilet; she studied the various modes of dress, in order to make herself pleasing to her lover; she often appeared in the habit of Flora. Those different metamorphoses were so tedious, that it became necessary sometimes to retard the dinner. The king was in such good humour, that he condescended to wait; and when the time appeared rather too long, he sent her word to come to table in her night-gown. The spectators were witnesses to the daily increase of his passion. One of those trifling incidents that are so pleasing to lovers, attracted the particular attention of the courtiers. His majesty having dropped his toothpick-case, Madam Dubarrè took it up immediately, and presented it kneeling; that the sovereign seeing her in that situation, threw himself at her feet, saying, This posture belongs to me, and for life; a piece of gallantry worthy of the ancient days of chivalry, and very different from
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the careless indifference with which our modern *petits maitres* treat the fair sex.

NOTWITHSTANDING this declaration of the king, the lady in question once more appeared in the character of a suppliant ; and this second anecdote of her visit to Choisi did her infinite honour, and gained her the hearts of one part of the great families of the kingdom, who was interested in the affair.

THE case was this : the Count and Countess of Louerme were condemned to lose their heads for certain acts of rebellion. Applications had been made to obtain a pardon for those illustrious criminals, which the Chancellor refused to grant ; but by a stroke of policy that shewed his judgement, he suspended the execution of the sentence, and by that means, gave his cousin an opportunity of acquiring popularity and friends ; nor did she let slip so favourable an occasion. The Countess of Moyan and Baroness of Helldorf, one daughter, the other daughter-in-law to the destined victims, had prostrated themselves at the feet of the sovereign,

sovereign, but their supplications were ineffectual, until Madam Dubarrè became a suppliant with them. She protested that she would never rise, until his majesty had granted her request. The king was affected, and raising her from the ground with emotion and joy, Madam, he said, I am charmed to find that the first favour you in a manner force me to confer, is an act of humanity.

THE journey to Compiègne, which the Court generally takes in the beginning of July, gave rise to new events. As the king could not now bear to be absent from the favourite, she was of course one of the company. Till then she had visited privately there : this year she went in all the pride and glory of a court lady, and was desirous therefore of signalizing her visit by the greatest splendor and pomp. She set out from the capital with three coaches and six. She then resided in the rue des Petits Champs, a place much frequented and very populous. Such preparations at a private house excited the curiosity of the people, which increased as soon

soon as it was known for whom all the bustle was occasioned. It was not her intention to shun the eyes of the people; at least every body judged so both from her retinue and the hour of her departure: she took coach at one o'clock in the day. Astonished however at a crowd that seemed to proclaim the departure of some eminent princes, and in order to avoid acclamations that were not all blessings, she let down the blinds of her carriage, and became invisible until she got out of Paris, and then graciously drew them up to shew herself to the passengers who thronged the road. This excursion was not equally pleasing to all. When preparations were made, his majesty having desired to see the list of those ladies who had been of the party the preceding year, he struck out with his own hand the Countess of Brionne, the Dutchess of Grammont, and Countess of Egmont, three ladies of the court, two of whom, at least, had great pretensions to beauty. It was generally believed, that those ladies felt great mortification at seeing themselves eclipsed by the Countess

Countess Dubarrè. The dutchess, indeed, used no endeavours to hide her resentment: the other two, without being so open, either thro' pride, emulation, or caprice, had preserved a conduct that was uniform, and never shewed those civilities to the favourite, which were customary at introducing ladies at court. This exclusion, which they richly merited, mortified them exceedingly. Their revenge for the disappointment was gratified by a singular caricature, of which probably they were the authors. The design alluded to that event, and must have proceeded from the most rancorous jealousy. It had for its title the *Battle of the Anagrams*. Those ladies were represented by the three graces with their proper emblems, with looks of sorrow and fear; they seemed to avoid the sight of a beauty of another kind, whose disorderly appearance, and lascivious gestures shocked them. This figure was distinguished by the name of *Garce*, which in the French language is the anagram for *Grace*, and is only applied to the most abandoned prostitutes. Happily, however, this picturesque

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que and infamous epigram was not much circulated, but shewn with great caution in private. It was particularly ascribed to the Dutches of Grammont, as she was naturally malicious, satirical, and daring, and moreover had most reason to dislike her rival; for the king had before given her a very sensible mortification which she could not easily digest.

It was about this time, that his majesty made an excursion to Chantilli. This is one of those places remarkable for the beauties of nature, which belongs to the prince of Condè. His majesty pleased to make known his intention of honouring his cousin with a visit at this place. His highness, according to the etiquette of ceremony, having waited on the king to enquire who were proper to be invited on the occasion, was told, That the choice of the company was left entirely to himself. This was considered as a shrewd trick of the sovereign to embarrass the prince, because should he invite the mistress, he could not decently request the company of the royal princesses, and
should

should therefore disoblige them; and by inviting those ladies he could not possibly have the company of Madam Dubarré. He concluded however that it was best to comply with the duties of his rank, and solicited his cousins to honour him with their company. When his highness laid the list before the sovereign a second time for his approbation, the latter erased again the names of the Dutchess of Grammont and Princess of Beauveau.

BUT tho' the Countess Dubarré was not of this party publicly, it is certain however that she spent one night with her royal lover, and returned the next morning incog. Whether this nocturnal visit was owing to the impatience of his majesty, who could not bear a long separation, or was the voluntary act of the mistress, in order to create an agreeable surprize, we do not pretend to determine.

THE Prince of Condé, however, who did not wish to give offence to any person, proposed a second excursion, to which the princesses were not invited, and this gave him an opportunity of having
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the Countess, and complimenting her with a particular view of all the beauties of that seat, where art and nature are so happily united. He had even reserved for this occasion the full display of his magnificence, and exhausted all the refinements of gallantry, in order to render the entertainments more pleasing.

THE camp at Compiègne, which was formed this year, was a new field of entertainment to Madam Dubarrè, and she enjoyed it in the fullest splendor. About this time, a third brother of the family of the Dubarrè's began to be known. He was called Chevalier Dubarrè, and no more than a captain in the regiment of Beauce ; but who, in order to do honour to his name, distinguished himself in this camp by a magnificence that was uncommon in a private officer : he kept open table, at the head of which he had the assurance to place his mistress, in order to perform the honours of it.

THIS journey was very agreeable to the king, and likewise to Madam Dubarrè, on account of the new connections she formed

ed with different ladies of the Court, who were led to court her acquaintance, either thro' her obliging manners, her affable sweetness and condescension, or from motives of interest. The Countess of L'Hopital, among others, particularly distinguished herself; that lady's gallantry could not but be favourable to an intimacy between her and Madam Dubarrè. She was known at Court to be the mistress of the Prince of Soubise; and that nobleman, being the friend and favourite of the king, had exerted every effort, in order to give his majesty this mark of his zeal and attachment, in which he succeeded.

By means of several acquaintances of this nature, Madam Dubarrè had still less occasion for the society of her god-mother; and it was at this period that the truth of the submission which the latter paid to the will of her patroness was confirmed. Madam de Bearn thus now no longer appeared at court.

'Twas not till after the journey to Compiègne was over, that the Prince of Condè had the happiness to enjoy the company

company of the king a second time at Chantilli. His majesty seemed much pleased, staid longer than before, and entered into every social enjoyment with more freedom, as the Countess was present, and only a few select ladies. His majesty exhibited his favourite to the whole neighbourhood, by making her follow the sports in a calash; so that every one was at liberty to take a near view of her person. The people were also admitted to see the feasts and entertainments; at which the king seemed to catch at every opportunity of shewing his attachment. Madam Dubarrè, on her part, endeavoured to conciliate the esteem of every person. The whole regiment of Beauce, to which the brother-in-law we have mentioned belonged, was honoured with numberless marks of her favour. The day on which the regiment went to encamp at *Royal Lieu*, she gave a most splendid entertainment to the whole corps of officers; the Colonel *Monsieur de la Tour du Pin*, was so affected by her civilities, that in return he complimented her with those
honours

honours that are usually paid to ladies of the first distinction : his conduct however was censured by the secretary of war, who observed in general terms, That he would not have the military honours profusely bestowed.

THE behaviour of the mistress was such, however, that, without some particular motives of resentment, it was impossible not to esteem her, and forget those unfavourable impressions which the prejudice and malice of her enemies had raised against her. Nothing could surpass her discretion, affability, and sweetness of temper. She possessed that virtue so rare to be met with, particularly in those of her own sex, never to speak ill of any person. She was never heard to drop a word of complaint or reproach, which the natural feelings of resentment might suggest against her enemies, and those who had published not only the least reputable anecdotes of her life, but had likewise industriously propagated the most infamous stories, to blacken her character.

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THE only foible which she could not resist, was her extravagant passion for pomp and ceremony; and her august lover took pleasure in gratifying her in that particular. Her household was already on the same footing with that of the late Marchioness of Pompadour: she enjoyed equal privileges of ceremony and parade. In her journies to and from Compeigne, the same attendance was paid to her as to his majesty at the post-houses.

At her return from Chantilli, Madam Dubarré supped with the Countess of L'Hopital, who was eager to shew how desirous she was to be the first to solicit the honour of entertaining her. Another court lady carried her adulation still higher, and proposed an alliance between her family and that of the Countess. This was the Marchioness of Montmorenci: her plan was to have the Duke of Bouleville marry Miss Dubarré, who lived with the Countess, and was her Mentor and confidante. This stroke of policy on the part of Lady Montmorenci was the more refined, as she flattered the favourite, without

out involving herself in any inconvenience. The Duke was a most worthless character; deeply involved in debt; very capable of such an act of folly; and so lost in reputation, that whatever he did, seemed now beneath the attention of his family: he was however a man of the first order of nobility in France, who could give rank and title to a wife, and might be shut up as soon as he had complied with what was expected from him. It is pretended, that he demanded as a preliminary to the match, that his son the Duke of Olonne, who merited death, but on account of his birth was imprisoned for life, should be set at liberty; this condition being refused, was probably the means of preventing the alliance.

ALL orders now successively bowed to the shrine of the new divinity, and acknowledged her power. There was an exhibition of paintings this year. It is usual with the courtiers to see it, in order to excite emulation among the artists. A hint was given to Madam Dubarrè, that it was proper for her to make her appearance

pearance there; and the day she made her visit, all the rest of the company were obliged to retire, agreeably to the orders given by Mr. St. Florentin, who directed the same ceremony to be observed as had been usual with respect to Madam Pompadour. Thus, by a revolution no less rapid than extraordinary, this female who, but a year before, had been exposed, in various ballads, under the name of the Bourbon Lass, with the permission of the Police, saw personages of the first quality obliged to retire from her presence, like people of the lowest class.—We must do justice to Madam Dubarré, and declare, that this expulsion is not to be ascribed to her, as she expressed her dissatisfaction at the proceeding. The most celebrated painters and sculptors, however, waited on this Minerva of the day, and endeavoured to conciliate her applause. One of them, the Sieur Drouais, an excellent portrait-painter, who had given proofs of his merit in a picture of the former mistress, was appointed to take her likeness.—He was not so happy on this

occasion. In order to succeed the better, he had represented her two different ways, in the dress of a lady, and that of a gentleman. Those who were well acquainted with Madam Dubarrè, were of opinion that the artist, instead of flattering her, as is usual with those of his profession, had not done even justice to her native charms. In both characters he had given her a sly, leering look, which is not, by any means, applicable to the lady; whose natural looks speak the language of sincerity and candour. The public were divided in opinion with respect to the two figures, which they censured for want of likeness to each other. That drawn in the character of a lady, was dressed in white, and adorned with a garland of flowers. In the figure of a man, Madam Dubarrè appeared in a sort of frock, with the collar of the shirt open. The latter was more generally pleasing to the ladies, and, the former, to the men. This occasioned the following lines to be addressed to the subject of those pieces:

Thy

Thy diff'rent portraits diff'rent thoughts inspire,
While both, in all spectators, raise desire.
Thy charms, in either sex, still joys impart,
And wishes various wanton round each heart.
What man that sees thee, as a female drest,
But feels the pride of manhood swell his breast?
When manly robes thy matchless form disguise,
Who would not wish to view with female eyes?

WHILE the arts thus sheltered themselves under the protection of Madam Dubarrè, artful and designing men, with whom courts generally abound, endeavoured, for the better accomplishment of their schemes, to support themselves under her auspices, and, by that means, open their way to fortune.

AMONG the number was Monsieur Genée de Brocheau, Master of the Requests, which place he had obtained by former intrigues. He was a man noted for his bad morals; but one of those active, and bustling minds, who, under every disappointment, still struggled to rise superior to them. He had raised his ambitious views to the place of Comptroller-General of the Finances, and thought of nothing less than supplanting Monsieur Maynon d'Invaux.

He had the address to conciliate the interest of Count John by his dazzling speculations. He set before his eyes the advantage of having in him a person entirely devoted to his service, who would make the treasures of France flow at his command. The Count was the dupe of those splendid offers: he employed all the influence he had with his sister-in-law, and endeavoured to persuade her to make use of what interest she had, in order to promote the scheme of this artful man. Unhappily the mine was discovered. Monsieur Brocheau was sent to the Bastile; and the brother-in-law had orders to take a journey for the benefit of his health, and to drink the waters which were thought necessary. He was accompanied in the excursion by a son of Esculapius, named Chevalier. This was another adventurer that was an instrument in his schemes.

ANOTHER courtier of intrigue had more address, and made a better use of the favour of the Countess. This was the Duke d'Aiguillon, who being then out of favour at court, was sensible how necessary
it

it was to his interest to procure her friendship. He first gained an intimacy with the Dubarrès, and made no scruple of the meanest condescension in order to rivet himself with that party. They considered themselves obliged to him for being one of the first to seek their friendship. It was probably owing to the gratitude of the royal Mistress that he then had permission to purchase, from the Duke of Chaulnes, the place of Colonel of the light horse, belonging to the King's guards. She even took a pleasure in being the first to acquaint him with the news in person. This post, exclusive of its rank and importance, was still more essential to the interests of that nobleman, as it procured him a particular intimacy with the sovereign, and gave him an opportunity of frequently displaying his talents under the immediate eyes of his Majesty. It was by this means he insensibly laid the foundation of his future advancement to the place of Minister, and gave the most sensible mortification to the Choiseuils, who saw,

approaching in him, a rival no less dangerous than implacable.

THOSE evident marks of the increasing power of the favourite furnished matter to the pens of French rhimers, who, in some of their couplets, described the impotent efforts of the party of the Choiseuils, and particularly those of the Dutches of Grammont. This lady now, having lost all hopes of success, seemed to affect a dislike to the Court. She took a journey to Holland: this afforded mirth to the wits, who humorously observed, that the lady was gone to speculate in commercial matters. As for the Duke, her brother, he took a quite different method to conceal his mortification. He spent, with much greater profusion, was more frequently absent from court, and made two successive excursions, one to Chanteloup, the other to Metz. At the former place, he lived in the greatest splendor. He had every day forty gentlemen, at least, at his table; two companies of players to entertain those who came to pay court to him, and every thing else in proportion. The other journey

ney was apparently taken with a view to visit a camp of cavalry that he had formed there; and to exhibit, in some sort, a prince of the blood in his train. This was the Duke of Chartres, who lived in the greatest intimacy with the minister.

IN the mean time, the King, who daily became more intoxicated with the charms of his mistress, omitted no opportunity of procuring her the respect of the courtiers, and the admiration of the people. The journey to Fontainebleau gave his majesty an occasion of exhibiting her in that quarter, and of procuring her new triumphs. Monsieur Bouret, the farmer-general, who was noted for the address with which he flattered the passions of the sovereign, and complimented the mistresses, contributed all in his power to gratify the wishes of the prince. He had erected, in the forest of Sennaar, a most magnificent lodge, which he called the King's Lodge, ever since he had the honour of receiving his majesty there.

THIS edifice was certainly too sumptuous for a private gentleman. His motive

for erecting this lodge was, according to the general opinion, in order to induce the sovereign to purchase it for Madam Pompadour. His expectations were, however, disappointed. Madam Dubarrè having succeeded to the honours of the deceased, he assiduously paid court to her, in order to renew his former project. He did not fail, therefore, when the King went to hunt in the forest of Sennaar, to excite a curiosity in Madam Dubarrè to see the lodge, and to prevail on the King to gratify his mistress. A day was accordingly fixed for her visit. But all these events being recorded in the journals of the time, we shall give them as they are there related.

“ ON Thursday, the 28th of September, his Majesty, before he hunted in the forest of Sennaar, visited the King’s Lodge. He arrived there after twelve at noon, and left it before one. He was observed to be thoughtful and uneasy. The Countess Dubarrè did not make her appearance there till after two. She was accompanied by many ladies

“ ladies of the court ; among others, by
 “ the lady of Marechal de Maurepas, the
 “ Dutchess of Montmorenci, the Dutch-
 “ ess of Valentinois, the Countess of L’Ho-
 “pital, &c. attended by several noble-
 “ men. Monsieur Bouret conducted the
 “ favourite through all the apartments.
 “ She was charmed with the place. A
 “ splendid dinner was then served up. Af-
 “ ter the entertainment was over, Madam
 “ Dubarrè, and the rest of the ladies, went
 “ in their carriages to the hunt, and were
 “ present at the death of a stag that was
 “ taken at Croix Fontaine. The King
 “ presented the foot of the stag to his
 “ mistress. A second buck was roused,
 “ and afforded great entertainment. Such
 “ was the variety and pleasure of the
 “ chace, that one might almost say, that
 “ the creature had been purposely trained
 “ for the occasion. The number of the
 “ courtiers was very considerable. This,
 “ and a most delightful day, had drawn
 “ prodigious crowds of people from the
 “ places adjacent.

“ EVERY body expected some new
“ stroke of politeness and gallantry from
“ Monsieur Bouret, as his inventive ta-
“ lents, on such occasions, were well
“ known. He did not disappoint those
“ expectations. A Venus was shewn
“ that had been modelled after that of
“ Coustou, in possession of the King of
“ Prussia. The ingenious courtier had
“ substituted a head taken from that of
“ Madam Dubarrè, and pointed it out to
“ his Majesty, who was much pleased to
“ see his taste so highly honoured.

“ MADAM Dubarrè appeared at the
“ hunt in the habit of a man, as she was
“ represented at the exhibition; but in-
“ finitely more careless and engaging.”

THOSE who are curious to know in what
consideration the new mistress was held at
court, and by the public; what people
thought of her, the reflections made upon
her exalted rank, and what strides she was
making towards sovereign power, have
only to consult the same journals. The
subsequent paragraph, dated the 4th of
October,

October, 1769, is very satisfactory in that respect. The contents are as follow :

“ THE courtiers continue attentive to
 “ what is passing at court, and endeavour
 “ to embrace the consequences of actual
 “ events. They were surprised that the
 “ Duke of Choiseuil did not obtain the
 “ place of captain-lieutenant of the light-
 “ horse, belonging to the King’s guards,
 “ for the Viscount Choiseuil, on whom
 “ he wished to bestow it. On the other
 “ hand, some people remark, that the in-
 “ terest of the minister is declining, though
 “ he set off from Metz apparently in fa-
 “ vour with his master. Before he de-
 “ parted, he had a private conference for
 “ three hours, with the Countess Du-
 “ barré. This interview has given rise to
 “ a variety of new speculations, as it is
 “ the first of the kind he has had with the
 “ favourite.

“ PEOPLE are generally at a loss to ac-
 “ count for the confinement of Monsieur
 “ Génée de Brocheau, in whom the bro-
 “ ther-in-law of the Countess imagined he
 “ saw talents adapted to the management

“ of the finances, and whom he attempted
“ to raise to the place of comptroller-ge-
“ neral, through the interest of his sister-
“ in-law. And the brother-in-law him-
“ self seems to share in the disgrace, as he
“ has been sent to take the waters, though
“ the season is over. Speculative persons
“ will have it, that he has been excluded
“ from the visit to Fontainebleau, because
“ it is the place where the great strokes
“ of policy are struck, and the most im-
“ portant revolutions effected.

“ HOWEVER, all are unanimous in ex-
“ tolling the goodness of the Countess Du-
“ barrè. Her sweetness of temper is equal
“ to the charms of her countenance. The
“ unfavourable impressions raised against
“ her by the unjust clamours of a power-
“ ful and inimical faction daily subside
“ more and more. They would have va-
“ nished long since, but for the influence
“ and malice of her enemies, who indus-
“ triously propagated them. Those who
“ were best acquainted with that amiable
“ lady, always contradicted such injurious
“ reports; but they were too few, and too
“ little

“ little known to silence general scandal.
“ Now that her situation makes her more
“ conspicuous, and that her conduct is
“ continually exposed to the vigilant and
“ piercing eyes of jealousy and envy, when
“ the most trifling action, the least word,
“ or a single equivocal gesture that might
“ be susceptible of censure or criticism,
“ would be remarked and exaggerated by
“ the envenomed tongue of slander, her
“ behaviour and conduct are free from all
“ reproach.—This is an apology that must
“ have great weight with those who are ac-
“ quainted with the nature of courts; and
“ is the most triumphant, and glorious
“ refutation of all the absurd stories that
“ have been fabricated to depreciate her
“ character.”

THE consternation of the enemies of
Madam Dubarrè, who, since her introduc-
tion at court, had respected her power,
and, by their silence, contradicted, in
some sort, the slanderous and malicious
reports that prevailed till then, was a po-
werful argument with her friends in
her justification. But though she never
deviated

deviated from her natural moderation by any act of atrocious resentment, she however amused herself in making little epigrams, and arch allusions, which, in affording mirth to the King, had the more powerful effect. It was reported about this period, that a new cook having been engaged by her steward, it was some time before he had occasion to appear before his mistress; but the moment she saw him, she conceived the utmost dislike to the poor fellow, on account of an unfortunate resemblance she fancied between him and the Duke of Choiseuil. This was such an unpardonable crime, that she gave immediate orders to have the ill-favoured figure removed, and dismissed from her service. It was added, that the very same night, she took occasion to make a jest of the affair at supper with her royal lover; saying, at the same time, "I have dismissed my Choiseuil; when will you dismiss your's?"

THIS epigram was, however, retorted upon Madame Dubarrè in another way, by a nobleman, capable of any extravagancy that fancy suggested. The person alluded to

to was the Count Lauraguais. It is not certain whether he had any particular cause of dislike to the favourite; but, either from a desire to recommend himself to the minister, by avenging the satirical jest of the Countess, or out of mere wanton pleasantry, he gave her a cause of mortification that was not easily to be forgiven.

THE philosophic Count, grown weary of those attachments of the heart, which are generally attended with remorse and disappointment, was, however, of a constitution too warm to abstain from the company of the sex. He went, therefore, to Madam Gourdan's to take a girl, in the same careless manner as he would to purchase a piece of cloth of a draper. Madam Gourdan is a lady devoted to the pleasures of the public. She is no stranger to the court, and makes herself very useful to the nobility. Count Lauraguais having procured, by her means, a young damsel possessed with every external accomplishment of nature, and enriched with her gifts, heaped riches and presents upon her.

her. He furnished a large house for her in the most sumptuous taste, and having placed her in the midst of splendor and opulence, he gave her the mock title of Countess of *Tonneau*, under which appellation he introduced her into the world.

THE allusion was so strikingly severe that it could not fail to draw the resentment of the Court on the count. He very prudently made a voyage to England some time after. As to Madam Gourdan, she did not appear to merit any share in the resentment of the Countess. She was quite innocent of the wanton sarcasm of the Count: notwithstanding which she was excluded from Fontainebleau. Strict orders were given that none of her profession should appear there. While the court is held at this place, ladies of pleasure usually assemble there, in great numbers, for the entertainment of the nobility, and other people, whom business or amusement draws to the town. At this time, the Provost and officers of the Police, were particularly ordered not to suffer those swarms of idle women to take up their residence there.

there as formerly. They were accordingly driven out of the lodging-houses and taverns; so that men of pleasure felt the want of this amusement, and were obliged to make occasional visits to the capital, in order to supply their wants.

MADAM Dubarré, however, whether from the mortification she suffered by the severe caricature of Count Lauraguais, or through her natural modesty, behaved with great moderation during the whole time. She avoided appearing in public; even at the play, she kept out of the view of the courtiers.

WE have already observed, that Madam Dubarré had, in a great measure, contributed to obtain the necessary permission for the Duke d'Aiguillon that he might succeed the Duke of Chaulnes in the post of captain-lieutenant of the light horse. That nobleman was not long before he testified his gratitude, and gave proofs to the family of the Dubarré's in general, of his great attachment to their interest. He procured for their nephew, Viscount Adolphus, who was an officer in the King's
regiment,

regiment, the place of a supernumerary cornet in his own company, in the room of the Duke of Pecquigni, who was become Duke of Chaulnes by the death of his father, and resigned his commission through jealousy that he could not succeed him.

THE year 1770 was opened with an anecdote that did great honour to the sentiments of the new mistress. The affair was much talked of on account of the new year, when complimentary visits are general, and it is necessary to have some subject to support conversation. The following affair became the general topic :

THE first day of January, Madam Dubarrè entered the King's apartment in great good humour, and to let him know that she was come to solicit, as her new year's gift, the lodge of Nantes. This was a place worth 40,000 livres a year, which the late Dutchess of Lauraguais held. She added, that it was for her worthy friend, the wife of the Mareschal of Mirepoix, she wanted it. The King smiled, and made answer, That he was sorry it was not in his power to grant her request, as he had disposed

posed of the place. The Countess was so much out of humour at the disappointment, that she lost her temper, and replied, "This is the fourth favour I have solicited, and you have refused to bestow. I shall never trouble you again!"—"Hey-day!" said the King, "it is rather early to be out of humour: you begin the year very badly." "And you begin it much worse," replied the favourite, with still greater marks of discontent. "Your reproaches, however, shall not make me alter my mind," said the royal Lover, (looking at her with tenderness,) "they only confirm me the more in my resolution: it is commendable in you to shew so much zeal for your friend; but, once for all, I cannot comply: that object is disposed of; and, if you are desirous of knowing to whom, I will tell you, 'tis yourself, Madam; I had reserved that place as a new year's gift for you." He then embraced her. Madam Dubarré was impatient until she had published this mark of kindness of the monarch, and the polite and delicate manner of conferring his favour. The courtiers, on the other hand,

hand, extolled a warmth of passion that betrayed her into some want of respect, but evinced the open and generous disposition of the Countess.

BUT, as she was warm and zealous for her friends, she could not forgive a breach of friendship; and ingratitude was to her the most odious of all vices. She had occasion to shew those sentiments, in regard to the Duke of Villeroi. That nobleman, who was in great favour with her, happened to let fall some expressions that were officiously carried to Madam Dubarré, and drew upon him her resentment.

WE must observe, that the Duke was a great libertine, very fond of the sex, and not very delicate with respect to his choice. He was grown passionately fond of a girl of the name of Sophy, who was a chambermaid to the Countess Dubarré; he had debauched the girl, who grew pregnant; and, in order to conceal the affair, and screen her from the reproaches and anger of her mistress, had made her quit her place, and took a lodging for her, where he kept her privately. At the time he was
carry-

carrying on the intrigue, certain courtiers who were friends to the Choiseuils, had bantered him on his assiduity about the favourite, and ridiculed him for his mean and fervile attendance on her. He denied the charge; assuring them, that she was not the object of his attention; that his visits were to one of her maids; in a word, to Sophy. This conversation was carefully related to the Countess, who, provoked at an excuse so full of insult to her, and vexed at having been so far a dupe, forbid his visits. This despicable flatterer had in vain recourse to the most abject supplications, in order to regain her favour: she remained inflexible, and behaved with a dignity and resolution on the occasion that did her honour. Her conduct was the same with regard to the Choiseuils; who, finding it impossible to remove her from Court, made some attempts, no doubt, to gain an intimacy with her, though not in a direct manner, lest they should expose themselves by a repulse. They employed a poet to address the favourite in a copy of flattering verses: the writer insinuated the
wishes

wishes of France for a reconciliation between her and the minister, the head of his family. The extravagant praises heaped upon the latter in the poem, gave occasion to presume, that they originated with that party.

SUCH a reconciliation was, however, impossible. The Choiseuils, therefore, made use of another stratagem. They placed certain artful courtiers about her, who endeavoured to terrify her with the arrival of the Dauphiness; insinuating that it would be prudent in her to be absent, under a pretext of drinking the waters of Barrege, that she might avoid being seen at entertainments, &c. where she must appear to disadvantage; as the Princess, tutored by her enemy, might probably give her many sensible mortifications. She seemed to relish this advice; for it was rumoured, that she was preparing to go. But the Duke of Richlieu acted like an experienced courtier, and dissuaded her from the journey: he represented the dangers she would be exposed to during her absence; and at length determined her to face the shock:
and

and the Duke d'Aiguillon, who had occasion for her support, confirmed her resolution.

MADAM Dubarré had no cause to repent having followed their advice: matters went on admirably well; she had the pleasure of being introduced to the Dauphiness by the King himself. On the arrival of that princess at the castle of Muette, she had the honour to sup at the same table with her; it was even asserted at that time, that his Majesty having asked the Dauphiness, How she liked the Countess? she made answer, That Madam Dubarré was a most charming, a most amiable woman: a reply full of candour, which the force of truth extorted. And, doubtless, she was at that time, the most distinguished lady of the court, both for her figure and natural graces: her personal charms might justly be called *beauty*; and what was still more singular and surprising, she was the most decent in her conversation and behaviour in public. This it was, no doubt, that procured her the immediate approbation and favour of the Dauphiness. A
circum-

circumstance happened at the succeeding visit to Compeigne, which proved that the young Princess was then far from having that aversion to Madam Dubarrè that she has since openly avowed. The Dauphiness had conceived a great affection for the young Dutchess of Chaulnes, heretofore Dutchess of Pecquigni. The King being to give a supper at the Lodge, she begged of his Majesty to invite that lady. He had the complaisance to do it; but, at the same time, invited his favourite. The Dauphiness, upon seeing the latter coming in, whom she did not expect, exclaimed with her usual vivacity, "I requested but one favour of your Majesty; but you are so good as to confer two!" The favourite unfortunately, some time after, by an indiscreet and culpable jealousy, had passed some censure on the figure of the Dutchess, which some persons were commending before her; and very indecently ridiculed every part of her face. This excited the indignation and hatred of the Princess against her to such a degree, that she shewed them afterwards on every occasion,

caſion ; nor could the preſence even of the Sovereign reſtrain her. It is generally believed, that the Duke of Choifeuil helped greatly to promote and cheriſh this hatred. The antipathy of that miniſter and the favourite, appeared on the moſt trifling occaſions. The Premier, who was the protector of Miſs Clairon, had ſerved the ambition of this actreſs, who, unable to bear the thoughts of loſing her fame in obſcurity, had conſidered the entertainments that were preparing at court for the nuptials of the Dauphin, as a favourable opportunity of reviving the public attention in her favour. By her intrigues, and the aſſiſtance of the Miniſter, who had a hand in every thing, ſhe obtained leave to perform *Athalia*, and deprived her former rival, Miſs Duménil, of the part. She was puniſhed for this ungenerous proceeding by her ill ſucceſs. Madam Dubarré felt for the humiliation of the ancient *Melpomene*, and procured her permiſſion to play the part of *Semiramis*, a character in which that actreſs moſt

excelled. She made her a present of a most magnificent dress on the occasion.

THESE trifling contests were only a prelude to the dreadful engagement that was to take place between the Duke of Choiseuil and the Countess. The latter began insensibly to take part in the most important affairs. That relative to the Duke d'Aiguillon, was the first wherein she shewed her influence. This intriguing nobleman was in the most critical and dangerous situation. The King had been prevailed on to take cognizance of the affair himself, and to have it tried by the parliament of Paris, before the princes and peers of the realm. The hopes the Duke had at first conceived of being acquitted, and, by that means, of silencing for ever the clamours and reproaches that were raised against his despotic administration, made him appear with pleasure before this new tribunal; but when he saw that the resentment of all present was roused against him by his secret enemy the Duke of Choiseuil; when he found that his whole conduct had been so severely scrutinized, that the most substantial proofs of mal-

mal-administration were likely to be produced against him, he looked upon himself as a lost man, and had no hopes but in the protection of Madam Dubarré, who was then on the best terms with the Chancellor.—The Chancellor had occasion for her assistance to secure himself at court, and complete the great projects he had formed against the entire magistracy, in order to ruin the Duke, his benefactor, who was become his enemy by his connections with the parliament; he made no scruple, therefore, of complying with all that was required. After having persuaded the Sovereign to open the most august assembly, with the greatest solemnity, in the month of April for the trial of a peer, in order to clear him of the crimes of which he was accused; in the month of June following, he made this very Prince declare, That he looked upon the affair as decided, the Peer acquitted, and that he desired to hear no more of the matter. It is not our province to inquire into those inconsistencies: this sufficiently shews, however, the amazing influence of the favourite at this

time, to prevail upon the Sovereign, before the princes, peers, and magistrates, in the face of the whole kingdom, and all Europe, to contradict himself in so shameful a manner. The event was made the subject of satirical sonnets. It furnished the Duke of Brissac with a *bon mot*. He observed, That the Countess Dubarrè had saved the head of the Duke d'Aiguillon, but had put a halter round his neck; alluding to the dishonourable mode of his acquitment.

THE latter, however, did not consider things in the same light, and thought himself happy to escape so well. He judged it the more essential to have the prosecution concluded at any rate, as he foresaw the approaching disgrace of the Choiseuils; and he was in hopes of reaping advantage thereby. He received a great mark of favour at this important crisis. The King having condescended to honour Madam Dubarrè with his company at supper with her at Lucienne, during the visit to Marli, was not displeased that she had

had invited the Duke d'Aiguillon, and admitted him to the table.

THE most intimate connection was, at this time, formed between this nobleman and the Chancellor. Their conferences were held at the apartments of Madam Dubarré, where, for reasons peculiar to each, they both conspired the destruction of the Choiseuls. For the more speedy accomplishment of their designs, they agreed to inform the King of the great intimacy between the Minister and the Parliament; to attribute to his intrigues the late insurrections of those bodies, with respect to a law-suit, from which the Chancellor had flattered his Majesty to disengage him, and who, on the contrary, only raised new troubles. Thus what might ruin one party, was turned against the other.

THE Dutchess of Grammont, who, through jealousy, was absent from Court, and travelling about, under the pretence of taking the waters, had passed through several provinces of France where parliaments were held, and furnished them with

more important and more atrocious matters of complaint. They insinuated to the Sovereign, that she had held several conferences with them; and urged them to make opposition, by assuring them of the protection of her brother. This accusation had such an effect on the mind of his Majesty, that from that time forward, he shewed a visible coolness to the Minister. He did not vouchsafe to speak to him with the least degree of familiarity, though he still continued to attend to business with him, and admit him to his private suppers. This disregard did not escape the notice of the courtiers, and made many of them quit the party of the Choiseuils.

It is somewhat wonderful how Madam Dubarrè, open, unreserved, giddy, and thoughtless as she was, could escape the snares of so many artful people, who endeavoured to surprise her by every method that could flatter her passions or caprice. The Chancellor, during the excursion to Compeigne, gave a dinner which afforded much mirth to the favourite, and would have

have made the Supreme Justice completely ridiculous, if such a thing was possible.

THE favourite had, at that time, a little negro boy, called Zamore, of whom she was very fond. She used to play with him as with a little dog. The boy was very arch. He accompanied his mistress wherever she went. Mr. de Maupeou endeavoured to flatter the one, by diverting the other; for he did not neglect the most trifling methods of pleasing.—In the course of the entertainment, he had served up a fine pie in appearance: this was, however, a deception; for as soon as a knife was put into it, a swarm of May-flies flew out round the room, numbers of which settled on the enormous wig of the Chancellor. The trick made Zamore laugh heartily; perhaps he had never before seen any of those insects. He was eager to catch some of them, and sought them in the curls of the wig where they were entangled. At length, without any respect for the chief magistrate, in order to divert himself with the flies the more easily, he pulled off the

wig entirely. Madam Dubarrè burst out into a loud fit of laughter, and the Chancellor bore the general derision with great good humour. We shall give our readers the remarks made by a courtier on the occasion. He observes, that the best method of describing a man is to relate the testimony of his contemporaries, and those of the same rank.

*Extract of a Letter from Compeigne, dated the
20th of August, 1770.*

“ YOU fancy at Paris that the Chan-
“ cellor is much embarrassed by the gene-
“ ral opposition of the magistrates, and by
“ the disturbances raised by the different
“ parliaments on every side. He does
“ not, however, appear in the least af-
“ fected by those commotions. He di-
“ verts himself with the innocence and
“ simplicity of a child. It is generally
“ reported that the King, a few days ago,
“ unexpectedly entered the apartments of
“ Madam Dubarrè, and found that Lady,
“ who has very little reserve, playing at
“ blindman’s-

“ blindman’s-buff with some of the young
“ courtiers; and, in the midst of them,
“ was the Chancellor blindfolded, which
“ gave great diversion to his Majesty.”

It was easy to conceive that the party of the Choiseuls made this indecent scene the subject of much ridicule; but Mr. Maupeou was not the less forward in his designs. His party daily increased. His pliant and engaging manners conciliated the friendship of all those whom the haughty behaviour of the rival minister kept at a distance. By this means he entirely gained over the Duke of Richlieu, who was still endeavouring to keep fair with both parties.

THE Marechal, before he set out for the government of Guienne, waited on the Duke of Choiseuil; and, in taking leave of the Minister, expressed how happy he should be if the Dutches of Grammont, who he understood was to return through that country, would do him the honour to lodge at his house at Bourdeaux. He assured him, That he would endea-

vour to give her a proper reception, and procure her every pleasure and entertainment that were due to a lady of her rank. The Minister did not conceal his dissatisfaction : he gave him to understand, that he looked upon those offers as a mockery ; that he was no stranger to the impertinent stories that had been circulated relative to his sister and himself ; and he looked upon him as one of the principal authors of the scandal. Whereupon the Mareschal, having attempted to make a jest of this charge, the Duke grew warm, and after declaring that neither he, nor any of his family should ever enter his doors, he turned his back upon him.

THE Minister had, at this time, another mortification to humble his haughty temper. He was obliged to nominate to the place of lieutenant-colonel of the Corsican battalion one of the Dubarrè's, the youngest of the three brothers, who was removed from the regiment of Beauce into that corps. This was a new stab to his pride. He could not but plainly see how the power of his enemy daily increased. When
the

the Court returned from Compeigne this year, the King conducted her publicly to Chantilly, and gave her the liberty to chuse such noblemen and ladies as she thought proper to be of the party. No person will doubt but the Duke of Choiseuil was one of the first omitted. 'Twas in the bosom of this Lady that the Monarch poured out the cares and anxiety which he felt at this critical period. After the despotic manner in which he lately assembled the Parliament of Paris on the 3d of September, the bad effects of which he could not but observe in the general consternation and terror that were spread round him in Paris, and in the melancholy silence that prevailed at his entry and exit, which was not interrupted by a single acclamation or blessing, he went to sup at Lucienne, where the Countess happily roused him from the uneasiness in which he was plunged. A talent so precious and flattering, and of such great utility, could not fail to give the favourite an intire ascendant over her lover. An evident proof of this was given in the conduct of his

Majesty in Parliament, in respect to the Duke d'Aiguillon. He carried away all the papers that related to his trial, which put it out of the power of that body to pursue the affair, and destroyed even the grounds of a prosecution. The Duke was sensible of the great importance of this conduct of the Sovereign. He endeavoured to express his gratitude by a present to his benefactress, which furnished matter of conversation, and excited the admiration of all Paris at the time. This was a most splendid vis-a-vis that he had ordered to be built for her. Nothing could surpass its elegance and magnificence. The coaches of the Dauphiness that were sent to Vienna, were far inferior in point of taste, and delicacy of workmanship. A description of this carriage will shew to what a pitch of depravity the manners of the Court were carried, in exhibiting to the view of all France the public scandal of the amours of the Sovereign, under an allegory that was no way mysterious. Besides the arms of the family of Dubarrè, which formed the center of the four principal

cipal pannels, on a gold ground that covered the whole exterior of the carriage, with the famous war-cry—*boutez en avant*, or push forward; on a part of each of the side pannels was painted a bed of roses, on which two doves were billing in the most wanton manner. On the other part, was drawn a heart pierced with an arrow; and the whole adorned with quivers, torches, and all the attributes belonging to the Paphian divinity. These ingenious emblems were crowned with a garland of flowers that had a most exquisite effect. The rest was proportionably rich and elegant. The hammercloth, the places for the footmen, the wheels, the boxes of the axle-tree, and the foot-stools, were of such finished elegance, that the eye dwelt on them with pleasure; and they were impressed with some resemblance to the charms of the Goddess of so voluptuous a carriage. Every body exclaimed, that the arts had never before been carried to so high a degree of perfection. As the Duke d'Aiguillon, to add to the politeness of the present, had concealed the price of it,

it, it was never exactly known. By particular inquiries, however, among the workmen, some people pretended to calculate the cost at 25,000 livres. Be that as it may, the donor had the mortification to see that Madam Dubarrè did not make use of it. Her motives were variously talked of. Some people said, that she did not like it; others again, with more probability, that the King thought it too superb, and had desired her not to ride in it. It was even said, that this had occasioned a quarrel between the lovers. Certain it is, the public were scandalized at this indecent pomp.

THE opposite party, it may be supposed, were not the last to rail at such extravagant luxury; but the Duke of Choiseuil was quite reserved. He did not join with the railers; he thought it sufficient to encourage them privately. The out-cry was the more justifiable, as the situation of France was truly miserable. Bread was very dear; numbers were perishing with hunger; and it was observed with regret, that the cost of such an equipage would have

have fed a whole province for several months. A satirical scribbler circulated a little piece, called the *Pater*, or *Lord's Prayer*. Thus discontent displayed itself in every form. This *Pater* was addressed to the King, and contained as follows :

“ OUR father, who art at Versailles, honoured be thy name ; thy kingdom is undone ; thy will is as little done on earth as it is in Heaven ; give us back our daily bread, that thou hast taken away. Forgive thy Parliaments, who have supported thy interests, as thou forgivest thy Ministers who have sold them. Be not led again into temptation by Dubarré ; and deliver us from that demon, the Chancellor. Amen.”

IN short, notwithstanding the multifarious proofs of the decline of their party, and of the surprising ascendant which the other daily gained, the Choiseuils still flattered themselves with hopes. They were the better founded, perhaps, as their design was to supplant the favourite by the introduction of a new beauty, who had every qualification to captivate the Prince.

THE

THE Marquis of Choiseul, son to the late captain in the navy, who was so celebrated for his *Vision of the Cardinal of Bernis*, had lately married a young lady of the name of *Raby*. She was a Creole of the most engaging figure; besides, her natural charms and talents were united with every elegant improvement, so that she might be justly considered as one of the most accomplished ladies of the Court: she was, moreover, very young, and fresh and blooming as Hebe. It might be expected that she would powerfully affect the sensibility of the Sovereign at the moment of introduction. This was a ceremony that was necessary, before she could be enrolled among the number of court ladies. The courtiers waited with impatience for the day on which this luminary was to make her appearance. Every eye was fixed upon the Prince, when the arrival of this mirror of beauty was declared. It was observed, however, that his Majesty shewed but little attention to her; and all the notice he took, seemed only to avoid the appearance of contempt. This
last

last resource having failed of success, the power of the Countess was judged invincible; and every thing, thenceforward, gave way before her. The ladies, who till then, had carefully endeavoured not to involve themselves in any disagreeable affair, by either shewing any open disrespect, or making advances, and thus kept within the bounds of prudence, were now too much alarmed at the disgrace of the Countess of Grammont, not to bow before the shrine of the reigning idol. This very Countess of Grammont, who had the insolence to fix the bell at Choisi, insulting Madam Dubarré in the most open manner, who had provoked the resentment and displeasure of the Sovereign, and now languished in exile upon her estate, was unable any longer to bear being absent from Court, or the gloom of solitude. She was mean enough to beg leave to return, and to engage the Dukes of Gonlaut and Noailles to solicit that favour for her from the favourite. It was granted on condition that she should not appear at Court.

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At Fontainbleau, in particular, Madam Dubarrè triumphed in all her glory, and humbled the Duke of Choiseuil. The King's regiment was encamped near that city, in order to be reviewed by his Majesty. This ceremony could not be performed without the Minister of the war department. Madam Dubarrè was at the review, attended by the Dutcheſs of Valentinois, and the Marchioneſs of Montmorenci. The Count de Chatelet, the lieutenant-colonel, made an entertainment in his tent in the evening, to which thoſe ladies had been invited. Madam Dubarrè was ſeated next the King, and occupied the place of the Dauphineſs, who had been expected, but did not go. This was the firſt apparent oppoſition ſhe had ſhewn to the favourite. The Duke of Choiseuil, boiling with rage and envy, under the pretence of indiſpoſition, avoided appearing at the review, or entertainment.

THE King, even in the moſt trifling matters, ſhewed how much he intereſted himſelf in every thing that concerned his beloved miſtreſs. In this excuſion, he
amused

amused himself with the marriage of the first waiting-maid of that lady. We have already mentioned that this woman had been the mistress of the brother-in-law, and deserted for Miss l'Ange de Vaubergnier. She was reduced to the greatest distress, when Madam Dubarrè was solicited to employ her in the above capacity. She had so far won the favour and confidence of her mistress, that the latter consented to her being married to a man of the name of *Langibeu*, for whom she procured a place of 10,000 livres a year. His Majesty gave, as a nuptial present, 25,000 livres, with an elegant suit of diamonds. Madam Langibeu continued in the service of Madam Dubarrè, and still is employed in the most secret offices. Though she is one of the worst of her sex, she has gained such an ascendant over the mistress, that the latter cannot get rid of her. This is a fresh proof of the good-nature of the favourite.

ALL those little particular favours were but the prelude to the important influence that Madam Dubarrè was about to display

play in the revolution that was shortly to take place; and which the Duke d'Aiguillon, and the Chancellor were advancing in concert, in order to promote their separate schemes of ambition. They both made use of the Countess as the fittest person to determine the Prince. They insinuated, that it was absolutely necessary that she should second their designs, as it was her interest; that she would never be safe from danger, while the Duke of Choiseul preserved his place; and that it would be impossible to remove him, unless by raising suspicions against him in the breast of the King, on account of his connections with the Parliament; that, in order to shew him in a worse light, it would be necessary, likewise, to blacken that body, and represent the members to the monarch as an ambitious set of men, that were ever ready to make incroachments, to attack his authority, and to usurp the privileges of the throne; that the first advantage that would flow from the ruin of the parliament would be the destruction of the Duke, her enemy; and, the next, though more remote,

mote, would be no less essential, as it would facilitate the levying of taxes, and consequently the generous favours of her august lover to her. So many advantages, presented under a point of view so strikingly alluring, made strong impressions on the favourite against the magistracy. She soon filled the heart of the Sovereign with the same hatred against the Parliament that she herself felt; to this he was already but too well inclined. This weak prince, who had no settled resolution, determined at length not to deviate from the new law, that had been established by the famous edict of December 1770, and registered in council on the 3d of the same month.

BUT the Chancellor and the Duke d'Aiguillon were too sensible of the irresolution and timidity of the Sovereign, to trust to his apparent firmness. They only took advantage of it, in order to make him strike the important blows which they had meditated, and hurry him on to such lengths, that there could be no possibility of receding. Madam Dubarré assisted them admirably well in those matters. As the
King

King supped with her almost every night, they previously instructed her in what she was to say; they gave her orders ready drawn up for signing; and when her lover, with his head heated with delicious wines, and his heart inflamed with love, which he poured out on her bosom, solicited the last favours, and there was nothing more to be granted, she extorted the fatal signature, and nothing was transacted in the Council; at least the other ministers complained loudly, that they were entire strangers to those violent acts that were put in force against the Parliament of Paris.

Thus, in fine, was dispatched on the 24th of December, the *lettre de cachet* which dismissed the Duke of Choiseuil. The same had been frequently signed before, in the hours of pleasure and intoxication, of which the King repented the next morning. This however took place, and was notified to the Minister at 11 o'clock in the morning, by the Duke of Vrilliere, who had but twenty-four hours allowed him to set off for Chanteloup. The order was as follows :

“ Cousin,

“ Cousin,

“ THE little satisfaction your services
“ have given me, obliges me to banish
“ you to Chanteloup; for which place you
“ must depart in twenty-four hours. I
“ would have ordered you to a place much
“ more remote, but out of particular re-
“ gard to the Dutcheſs of Choiseuil, for
“ whose health and welfare I am interest-
“ ed. Let not your conduct force me to
“ alter my resolution. May God preserve
“ you.”

THE presence of the Duke of la Vrilliere, who carried the royal mandate to the Duke of Choiseuil, was another mortifying circumstance to him; as that Minister, being uncle to the Duke d'Aiguillon, could not but be inwardly pleased with his commission. Nor was the disgraced Minister the dupe of this affected condolence; but
“ My good Lord Duke,” he replied, “ I very well know all the pleasure you feel in being the bearer of this news.”

THE Duke of Praslin, who was at Paris very much afflicted with the gout, which had seized his head, received a *lettre de cachet*

cachet the same day, that was much more concise, and full of contempt.—It contained those words, viz.

“ I HAVE no farther occasion for your services. I banish you to Praslin; you must set out in twenty-four hours.”

THESE Ministers having quitted the Court, the affair relative to the Parliament was not long: that whole body was banished the 22d of January.

It is natural to suppose that those events did not take place without exciting many murmurs and complaints; numberless epigrams, sonnets, and pasquinades were written on the subject. In one of those little pieces the insignificant conduct of the king was pathetically described; and he was deprived of the precious surname of the *Well-beloved*, which he should have carefully endeavoured to preserve, if he had ever merited that glorious appellation. There were other wretched rhimes which no otherwise merited notice, but for the contemptible light in which they represented the supreme Head of the law.

ANOTHER piece was more humorous;
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it was a caricature relating to the edict of the Parliament of the 10th of December ; in which that body said to the King, That their members were ready to sacrifice their fortunes, liberties, lives, &c. for him.

THE King was represented with the Chancellor, the Comptroller-general and Madam Dubarré in a group. The first President of the parliament appeared lying at the feet of the Sovereign, and a little basket was filled with the heads, purses, and *pudenda* of the members : the Chancellor seized upon the heads, the Comptroller-general on the purses, and the Mistress on the *pudenda*.

It is not known whether she was ever informed of this affair ; but in all probability she would have laughed at the jest. This is the more likely, as she was then free from her enemy.

THE Minister, however, bore his disgrace with a becoming temper and fortitude ; it proved a sort of triumph to him : for, though he had orders to receive no person during his stay in Paris, an immense crowd of people of all ranks called on him,

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and left their names; and the Duke of Chartres, who was a particular friend to the exiled Minister, broke through every obstacle, clasped him in his arms, and shed abundance of tears on the occasion.

THE day following, when he was to depart, those who had not been permitted to see him, went out of town to meet him; and the road was lined for a considerable length with a double range of carriages.

It seems that the most powerful motive that was urged to determine his Majesty to dismiss a man whom he did not like, but to whom he had been long accustomed, and whom he dreaded and considered as necessary, in the critical situation he was in with respect to Spain and England, was, the charge laid against the minister of his tacit endeavours to kindle a war, notwithstanding all his seeming ardor to coincide with the views of his master, who was now more desirous of peace than ever.

AFTER having thus misrepresented him to the Sovereign, they endeavoured to stifle the public regret; for the people, equally blind in their attachment and hatred, seem-
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ed to lament the banishment of the Minister. A few days after his disgrace, the edict of Council, of the 23d of December, relative to the corn trade, was made public. It was nothing more than a renewal of the arrangements made by the different acts of Parliament in regard to that article; acts which had been frequently annulled, tho' the wisdom and necessity of them were evinced by those orders. The promulgation of the edict was now however absolutely useless, on account of the impossibility of exporting corn; as the price of that commodity was higher than the rate at which exportation was permitted; and especially as it was too dear and too scarce in France, to think of sending it to a foreign market. This made some short-sighted politicians infer, that the real design of the proclamation was to throw the odium of all the monopoly, forestalling and scarcity on the Duke of Choiseuil.

THE Countess Dubarré could not but feel the highest satisfaction at being completely freed from the only man she had to fear; but the removal of her enemy was

not thought sufficient; it was necessary to raise her creatures to the ministerial departments.

THE Duke d'Aiguillon persuaded her that she could have no servant in office more devoted to her interest than he was. His arguments had the desired effect; and he was accordingly nominated to the naval appointment: he had even taken possession of the place; but wiser heads advised him to forbear. He considered the matter; and found this was not a time for him to accept of the office; that being made the subject of new memorials, in the present fermentation of the States of Brittany against him, and the general concern for the Choiseuls, it was necessary to remain behind the curtain, and wait until the inexperience and errors of a new minister should make the people desire a change. The Abbé Terrai, an artful schemer, but a man of obscurity, without birth, friends or consistency, and who had no resources but what he derived from himself, procured the place for the present, as one that would resign it whenever it was required.

His

HIS intention, however, was to keep the place; and, as he was vain enough to think himself qualified to manage the finances, though he never was well acquainted with that department, he imagined that he was equally capable of discharging the duties of the new office which he was about to direct. He was in hopes of finding some favourable opportunity of holding the latter, and getting rid of the former, which was attended with great dangers that daily increased. The Duke d'Aiguillon had his views likewise; and looked upon the Abbé as an excellent substitute for the present, whose ignorance of naval affairs, and want of support, would facilitate his removal whenever he thought proper.

THE war-office was given to the Count of Muy, a man well versed in military affairs, but full of austerity and devotion. His refusal to bend the knee to the idol of the Court, was the cause of his dismissal. The Prince of Condé was scheming likewise; and Madam Dubarré could not help concurring in the appointment of the Mar-

quis Monteynard, whom his highness considered as the fittest person to promote the accomplishment of his designs. What those designs were, we shall not here attempt to investigate. The foreign department remained without a head; and this was another resource which the Duke d'Aiguillon was endeavouring to preserve for himself.

ALL those who were connected, in any degree, with the Choiseuils, shared in their disgrace. The Baron of Breteuil had been appointed ambassador to the court of Vienna. He had already sent off his baggage, and was preparing to set out on the embassy, when he was desired by the Duke of La Vrilliere to wait upon the Countess Dubarrè, who informed him that his destination was altered. So that this Minister, who was the most able negotiator after Mr. Vergennes, was sent to bury his talents at the Court of Naples. As he was a creature of the late premier, and had been appointed by him, it was apprehended he might use his endeavours to persuade the Empress Queen to write in
favour

favour of the disgraced minister. It was therefore considered as a matter of the greatest importance to the reigning party, to have a person at that Court intirely devoted to their interests, however incapable he might be; and this consideration induced them to send Prince Lewis on that embassy. The calamities of Poland were doubtless owing to this egregious blunder in politics. Thus the welfare of the nation, and the interests of her allies, were sacrificed to the private views of an obscure party, who lessened the national consequence with foreign states, and filled the interior provinces of the kingdom with confusion and disorder.

THE more effectually to promote their designs, and, in order to complete the ruin of the magistracy, the Chancellor, who then directed all the motions of the favourite, persuaded her to make a purchase, which laid her open to censure and ridicule; and the secret views of the purchase merited the most severe animadversions.

THE Count of Thiers, a nobleman celebrated for his love of the fine arts, had a most noble collection of paintings, in which

was a portrait of Charles I. king of England, in a standing posture, painted by Vandyke. This was the only one that was excepted in the sale of the pictures to the Empress of Russia. It was reserved for the favourite, who paid 24,000 livres for it. People were surprised at her choice. She was reproached for having preferred that piece to so many others that were more worthy of her attention. She made answer, That it was a family picture she was willing to preserve. The Dubarrès claimed kindred to the house of Stuart, from their foreign descent; but it was a mere idle claim. It was generally thought by those courtiers, who were best acquainted with the intrigues of the Court, that by the advice of Mr. de Maupeou, she had the picture hung up in her apartment that was next to the King's; and, that whenever his Majesty seemed inclined to listen to the suggestions of his natural goodness of heart, and resentment subsiding, he was disposed to moderation and clemency; she pointed to the example of the unfortunate Charles; and hinted, that, perhaps, his
par-

parliaments might have perpetrated the like atrocious crime, if the Chancellor had not laid open their rash and nefarious designs, and checked their progress before they were carried to that excess of enormity to which they otherwise might. Notwithstanding the absurdity of this abominable imputation, it raised a storm in the breast of the Sovereign for the moment; and, from the foot of this portrait, were thrown the royal thunders at the heads of the magistracy, and, in a manner, annihilated them in the most remote parts of the kingdom.

THOSE severe proceedings gave universal concern. Madam Dubarrè, and the rest of the faction, who were considered as the authors of the calamities, were severely handled in several little satirical pieces that were published on the occasion.

MADAM Dubarrè had some cause of comfort under these mortifying censures. The Secretary of War, eager to give her proofs of his attachment, had the Chevalier Dubarrè, the third brother of the fa-

mily, who was lieutenant-colonel of the Corsican battalion, made a lieutenant-colonel in the Queen's regiment of dragoons. In order to effect this, his predecessor, Monsieur de Tourni, was made a Field-marshal, though out of turn.

His Majesty did not pay the same regard to the strong recommendation of his mistress in favour of Monsieur de Roquelaure, bishop of Senlis, for whom she wished to obtain the revenue of vacant church preferments, in the room of the Bishop of Orleans, who had lately been disgraced as a creature of the Choiseuils. The prelate of Senlis was a most accomplished person, an expert courtier, and a great favourite with the Countess; but his Majesty was divided and perplexed between four parties. The Secretary Bertin, on the most intimate footing with the Sovereign, proposed his brother, the Bishop of Vannes; the Duke of La Vrilliere, his cousin Philippeaux, archbishop of Bourges; and the Chancellor, the Archbishop of Arles, or the Bishop of Luçon. The King, to avoid giving pain to either party, made choice of

of the Great Almoner, whose very advanced age gave all the competitors hopes of a speedy vacancy. These little incidents contributed greatly to shew the true character of the Sovereign, who displayed a weakness even while he seemed to act from his own determination.

BUT if the Countess was disappointed in her endeavours to serve her friend, she had more interest in procuring the place of Secretary, in the naval department, for Monsieur Burgeois de Boynes, who was then the Chancellor's principal agent; a man absolutely necessary in the important business of erecting a new tribunal, which he was endeavouring to substitute in the room of the Parliament; and which was actually established in the ever memorable council of the 13th of April. We cannot form a better idea of the influence of the Countess, on this occasion, than from her speech to the Duke of Nivernois, one of the protesting peers. Meeting that nobleman accidentally, she stopped him, and, after reproaching him with his conduct in those affairs, she had hopes,

she added, that he would not persevere in opposition, after hearing the King declare That he would never recede from his resolution. "Yes, Madam, but his Majesty was looking at you, when he made that declaration," replied the Duke of Nivernois. Thus extricating himself, by his wit and politeness, from a delicate and perplexing situation.

THE revival of an old couplet, which was applied to Madam Dubarrè, shewed how far she was considered as the author of the calamities of France.—It ran thus :

" Oh, France ! the Fates have then, I find,
 " Subjected thee to womankind.
 " A maid preserv'd thee heretofore ;
 " Now art thou ruin'd by a w——e."

It is not certain whether this severe epigram ever reached her knowledge ; but she regarded very little what might be said of her. She endeavoured to display her eager desire to contribute, as far as in her power, to the creation of the new Parliament ; and, in order to testify her approbation to Monsieur Joly de Fleury, the attorney-

torney-general of the new tribunal, who was the only person that was mean enough to survive the dissolution of the whole body to which he belonged; she made a present of diamonds to his lady, to the amount of 100,000 livres. However, it is conjectured that this had been done by the advice of others.

HER brother-in-law, Count John, was the soul of all her proceedings, though he rarely went to Court. He resided in Paris, where he had a number of young dependants, who were continually in motion, and carried his various instructions, not to the sister-in-law herself, but to his sister Dubarré; who, by her capacity and art, had acquired a great ascendant over the mind of the Countess, whom she never quitted. There was such a regular correspondence kept up between this trio, that every thing that was either to be said or done by the royal Mistress was pointed out by the Count, one, two, or more days before, according to time, place, or circumstance.

BESIDES, those emissaries, who were young persons of education and experience, made continual excursions to the remoter parts of the kingdom, and travelled into foreign countries; nor was the object of their journies known to the public. From her constant love of politics, her desire to study the interest of princes, and to be thoroughly acquainted with foreign affairs, it has been imagined that Madam Dubarré directed the vacant office, though not nominally, and enabled his Majesty to manage those affairs by himself, as he had done since the disgrace of the Duke of Choiseuil, in a very able manner. Others, with more probability, supposed that it was only as a substitute, and that she was thus working for the Duke d'Aiguillon, as she could not flatter herself with succeeding to the place. The event soon justified this opinion. In the month of June, this Duke, who had been impeached of capital crimes but a year before, and who still lay under the stigma of a parliamentary decree against him, was made a member of the

the privy-council, and minister of the vacant department.

THE credit and influence of the Countess were risen to such a height, that the Princes who had manifested their opposition to the new measures, by entering their protests against them in all the public papers, did not disdain to enter into a negotiation with her. As they were removed from the Court, where they had orders not to appear, they engaged the Princess of Conti to be their mediatrix with the favourite. Her Highness attacked her on her own interest. She represented the dreadful danger to which she must be exposed, should she happen to lose the King; that the princes, the peers, the whole united body of magistrates, and the greater part of the citizens would look upon her with detestation; that she would be left without protection or shelter, and experience, perhaps, the most fatal reverse; that, on the contrary, by seriously endeavouring to repair the mischief into which she had been betrayed by appearances and misrepresentation, she would conciliate the esteem

esteem and friendship of all those who would, otherwise, become her bitterest enemies, with the conscious glory of having restored order and tranquillity to the kingdom.

THIS eloquent discourse, from the lips of a princess, was well calculated to carry conviction to the heart of Madam Dubarrè, and to inspire her with salutary apprehensions; but the persons interested in retarding or obstructing the re-establishment of affairs, soon dissipated her fears, and strengthened her resolution. They convinced her of the danger of placing any confidence in the advice of an enemy.

THE favourite, moreover, had neither resolution nor capacity sufficient to manage so delicate an affair of herself, and she was sensible how much she was disliked by the Dauphiness, who had been informed of the satirical remarks she had made on her person; that as those are insults which women never forgive, she could have no reasonable prospect of a sincere reconciliation on that side. The King, therefore, was the only refuge; and it was necessary
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for her to use her utmost efforts to prevent a union between him and his family. The balls given by the Dauphiness, during the winter, had already afforded her an opportunity of contributing to this. His Majesty, who would have been much pleased to have seen his mistress there, expressed surprise to his daughter-in-law at her neglect in that particular. She made answer, "That, well knowing the Princesses would not appear there, in case Madam Dubarré was to be of the party, she had preferred the company of her aunts;" so that the King avoided going to those assemblies afterwards, and the courtiers perceived a very great coolness in his Majesty with respect to that Princess.

THE Dauphin, naturally reserved and austere, was so much affected for his august consort, that he omitted no opportunity of mortifying the favourite. He shewed this in a journey to Bellevue, where she was with the King. He went suddenly to dinner there, at a time that he was not expected. This obliged the lady to quit her seat at the table. She pretended illness;

ness; and kept her apartments the whole day in a very peevish humour.

To counterbalance this party, the favourite was advised to endeavour to gain the friendship of the Count and Countess of Provence. The Count, who was more pliant, seemed less difficult to manage; and the young Princess was thought to have a disposition to bustle and contention, which such a connection would afford her ample room to indulge. But things were not carried so far as might have been expected.

IN the mean time, pasquinades still flew about. One was at this time handed about, in which there was a most mortifying stroke given to the favourite in a single expression. The subject was the affairs of the day, in remarks on the word *Royalty*.

THE writer observed, That *Royalty* meant praise in former times; that every thing that was well done, was said to be done like a king, 'twas *angelical, divine, royal*; but now the word seemed to have a quite different meaning. To judge *royally*, meant a total want of judgment, and to be governed by
a scoun-

a scoundrel of a Chancellor; to pay *royally*, was to become a bankrupt; to live *royally*, to be devoted to a w——e.

THIS last word reminded her of the extravagant hopes with which the Chancellor and the Duke d'Aiguillon had amused her for the completion of their designs. They had ventured to flatter her with the prospect of being married to the King. They had inflamed her imagination with the example of that conscientious marriage between Lewis XIV. and Madam Maintenon, now acknowledged by every historian. They had observed, that circumstances were, in every respect, infinitely more favourable to her. First, she could not doubt but she had a greater ascendant over his Majesty, whose passion increased daily. Secondly, the present Prince was much weaker than his predecessor, and more easily governed. In the third place, it would be no more than following the precedent of a great monarch; but that it would be necessary to remove those obstacles that were in the way. That the destruction of the Parliament, whose opposi-
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tion and firmness might otherwise obstruct the design, would enable them to promote it; the one, by becoming the master of the magistracy; the other, by being in a condition to negotiate with powerful and direct influence, by having the government of foreign affairs. It was imagined that this consideration contributed not a little to the exaltation of the latter.

It was looked upon as certain, that a negociation had actually been opened at Rome for dissolving the marriage of that lady with the Count William. It was represented, that being but little acquainted with the canonical forms, she had not been sensible, until after the nuptial ceremony was over, that it was prohibited to marry the brother of a man with whom she had cohabited; that she thought it proper to acknowledge that she had entertained some passion for the brother of her husband; but that being timely aware of the species of incest she was about to commit, her conscience would not suffer her to live with her husband; that, therefore, the crime had not been as yet committed, and his Holiness had it in
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his power to free her from an alliance so full of scandal.

It is easy to conceive that an affair of this kind could not be speedily terminated. This was what the persons, who made the application, wished for. They had their reasons for lulling the favourite with those chimerical expectations as long as possible.

IN the mean while, until her ambition could be satisfied in this particular, it was hinted to Madam Dubarrè, that she should counterbalance the satires that were levelled at her by praises from another quarter; that she would do well to court the attention of the Muses and Arts, who alone could bestow fame and reputation.

MONSIEUR Doyen, one of the most approved historical painters of the time, soon experienced the benignant influence of this Minerva. She sent for him; expressed her desire to have a piece of his performance; observing, at the same time, That she did not wish to have a religious subject. The artist replied, " That he should obey her commands; that he did not con-

fine

fine himself entirely to painting faints," She left the choice to himself. He then proposed for the subject a pretended historical anecdote of that lady of Thessaly, whom the vulgar and ignorant had accused of witchcraft; and who, having been brought before the Emperor to answer for the imputed crime, put an end to the affair by her appearance; for nothing could surpass her beauty and accomplishments. The favourite felt all the art and delicacy of this picturesque allusion. She adopted, with pleasure, so flattering a subject; and Monsieur Doyen, who was, however, a low, unpolished, and ill-bred man, ingratiated himself so far, that she introduced him to the King. His Majesty received him with great kindness. This encouraged the natural assurance of the painter. "I feel, please your Majesty," he said, "how much the happiness of approaching your royal person elevates my ideas and imagination; it would be of the most signal advantage to me if I could frequently enjoy the like inspiration." The Sovereign conceived his meaning; gave him a general admission
into

into the private apartments, which were afterwards open to him at all times; and he has often had the happiness since to see Madam Dubarré in bed.

SHE endeavoured likewise to gain the esteem of those people who belonged to the royal palaces, and to make them sensible of her humanity. In a visit to Choisi, the King happened to complain of the ill state of his flowers and hot houses; the gardeners insinuated that it was impossible for them to find people to do the business; because it was out of their power to pay them, having received no money for a long time; she drew out her purse, and gave them sufficient to satisfy them; thus acting the sovereign in the very presence of her august lover.

BUT the attachment and respect of individuals did not compensate for the mortification she felt in reading the paper called the *Gazettier Cuirassé*, which then began to appear. This unconnected rhapsody of error, falsehood, abuse and impertinence, was at first ascribed to Count Lauraguais. One might, indeed, be tempted to believe

believe that he had some hand in it; but it now appears to be the intire work of one Morand, formerly a man of indifferent character in Paris, and who seems not to merit a better name in London; as it is generally asserted, that he had a thousand guineas for the copy of the libel: it shews the folly of English publishers; a book-seller in Paris would hardly be guilty of such a weakness. Be that as it will, Madam Dubarrè was most severely abused in this performance: we shall select some of the most remarkable passages:

PAGE 16. After speaking of the King in the most criminal terms, it was pretended "that he had accidentally found a paper which contained menaces of sending her to the hospital."

PAGE 19. "It is much feared that the
" re-establishment of the Jesuits will soon
" take place, as Madam Dubarrè favours
" the party of Nonconformists: some cen-
" sorious persons accuse her of entertaining
" their opinions."

It is said, that this absurd imputation
had

had no other effect on Madam Dubarrè but to provoke her laughter.

PAGE 23. In speaking of a promotion among the orders of the State, the author adds, "The scurvy Friar Ange, father of Madam Dubarrè, is to be president of one."

PAGE 25. "Four men are ordered to be draughted out of each company of all the troops in France, in order to form a body of Janissaries, of which Count Dubarrè is to be the chief aga. This body is intended to carry the orders of his Majesty to all the provinces of the kingdom, to escort the mutes when they are sent upon any private expeditions, and to explain the orders with which they are intrusted themselves, with their bayonets, in case it should be necessary."

PAGE 30. "The girls of Paris have presented so many memorials and complaints to Madam Dubarrè against the Lieutenant of Police, that he is forbid to enter any brothel."

AND by way of note :

Grand

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" THERE

“ THERE are several ladies of the town
“ who have lived upon the most intimate
“ footing with Madam Dubarrè : this has
“ procured them all the indulgence which
“ she formerly wished for.”

IN another :

“ THE Lieutenant of Police of Pa-
“ ris is inspector of all the vestals, ma-
“ trons and procuresses belonging to the
“ infected houses in his district, which
“ extended four years ago to the Count
“ and Countess of Dubarrè.”

PAGE 34. “ Madam Dubarrè has lately
“ instituted a new order, that is to be
“ called the Order of Lucretia. The con-
“ ditions on which women are to be ad-
“ mitted, are very severe. They must have
“ lived with ten different men at least ;
“ and prove that they have been three
“ times under a course of salivation. Men
“ will be dispensed from giving proofs by
“ the Countess, who reserves the dignity
“ of Grand Mistress to herself. The ensigns
“ of the order are to be, *a cucumber embroider-*
“ *ed on the breast, with two large excrescences*
“ *properly delineated.* Though Madam Du-
“ barrè

“ barré declares, that she will appoint no
 “ knights but those who have the honour
 “ to be in her good graces ; it is, how-
 “ ever, thought, that the order will be
 “ more numerous than that of St. Louis.”

PAGE 43. “ Father Ange has been
 “ lately appointed by his Majesty coadjutor
 “ to the Archbishop of Paris. His
 “ daughter has added to this, the nomi-
 “ nation of vacant livings.”

IN a note is added :

“ WE are assured, that the Countess
 “ Dubarré is the daughter of this friar
 “ and a country cook-maid, who was de-
 “ livered of her at the little priory of la
 “ Brie, where this monastic production
 “ was brought up until she attained her
 “ tenth year. At that age, an itinerant
 “ procuress robbed the holy man of this
 “ fruit of his industry, in order to carry
 “ her into the centre of lewdness, in which
 “ all France had seen her so long im-
 “ mersed. Her first appearance was in
 “ the most humble sphere, and her life
 “ suffered strange revolutions for upwards
 “ of fifteen years. She first was a street-
 “ walker ;

“ walker; thence she moved to the *Palais*
“ *Royale*, a place that had been the femi-
“ nary of many marchionesses.—After this,
“ she had a furnished apartment, and a
“ good-natured keeper, who began to im-
“ prove her by his advice and instructions.
“ —She then united with Count Dubarrè
“ in gambling schemes, in presenting me-
“ morials to the Police, and in drawing
“ company to his house.—The next pro-
“ ceeding of her’s was to get 5000l. in
“ debt, to take up a coach on credit,
“ which gave her some air of consequence
“ in the world. She afterwards made an ac-
“ quaintance with Madam J——D——,
“ who introduced her to Le Bel, the
“ valet de chambre, and confidante of a
“ great prince, with whom she made an
“ excursion to Versailles *by night*.—In fine,
“ she returned from thence a countess,
“ has been introduced at Court, lodged
“ in the palace, whence she has driven a
“ princess, two ministers, and all the peo-
“ ple of merit she could discover.”

PAGE 47. “ It is related, that the Mar-
“ chioness of Lank ——, and other ladies
“ have

“ have had the honour of being introduced at Court on Ascension-day by Madam Gourdan, for whom Madam Dubarrè has procured the honour of the *Ta-bouret* *.”

PAGE 53. “ The attachment of the King for Madam Dubarrè, proceeds from the astonishing efforts to which she excites him by means of a liquid amber with which she inwardly perfumes herself every day. It is added, that she makes use of another secret that is not as yet practised among people of character.”

PAGE 61. “ The King being now busy in making an almanac, Madam Dubarrè has chosen for his substitutes Count L—, and the young Marquis of Chabril,—whose abilities she had experienced before her promotion, as the Marquis himself has acknowledged.”

AND in a note :

“ THE Marquis of Chabrillant in his exile at Montetimart, having heard of the elevated rank of the Countess Du-

* This means the place of Maid of Honour.

“ barrè, cried out, in the presence of a
“ great number of officers belonging to
“ his regiment, *What a fortunate c—p have*
“ *I had!* Being asked the reason, he made
“ answer, *She gave it to me; and no doubt*
“ *she will now make me amends.*”

PAGE 95. “ The French academy has
“ proposed a premium extraordinary to
“ whoever shall clearly prove that the
“ Chancellor is an honest man, and Ma-
“ dam Dubarrè a woman of virtue.”

PAGE 85. “ The writer of the annals of
“ the porter of the Carthusians, is employed
“ to give in the same style the History of
“ the Countess Dubarrè; the title of the
“ work is to be, *Memoirs calculated for the*
“ *scandal of the people.*”

THE life of Madam Dubarrè, like that
of every other person in place, was become
an alternate scene of pain and pleasure. She
enjoyed a great share of the latter at Mu-
ette, where she had the honour of supping
with the King, and all the royal family,
at their return from Compeigne. She,
moreover, had the satisfaction to see that the
public were witnesses of this triumph; and
to

to share in the good-humour of all the august personages who partook of the entertainment.

BUT her pleasure was still greater a few days after, when she received his Majesty in her new lodge at Lucienne, where she entertained him with a concert, fire-works, &c. The Sovereign was charmed with the building, which was constructed with so much art and elegance, that it might be compared to a work of enchantment. Monsieur le Doux, the architect, displayed in this little terrestrial paradise, all the resources of genius and art, and every beauty of which they were capable. One would think that he had realized those enchanted palaces described in poetry and romance.

WHAT excited particular admiration was, his singular diligence in having erected this masterpiece in a single season. As a reward for his zeal, Madam Dubarré procured him the place of Commissary and Inspector of the Salt-works of Franche-Comté, worth about 400 l. per annum.

IN fine, the favourite enjoyed a triumph still more extensive and permanent, in see-

ing her charms displayed in the exhibition of 1771; where painting and sculpture seemed emulous to contend for the honour of exhibiting her to the eye of the whole nation.

THERE is a particular account of her portrait in *Letters on the Exhibition*; (but not sufficiently interesting to our readers;) after which the writer of those letters proceeds:

“ SINCE I have written the above, the
“ Countess Dubarrè has been to see the
“ exhibition, and whether from her own
“ dissatisfaction, or that of the public,
“ with respect to the painter, or out of
“ regard to the clamours of the devout,
“ who would have no part of the female
“ body uncovered, she has ordered her
“ picture to be removed; and it is to ap-
“ pear no more.”

IN speaking of the bust, the writer says:

“ THE heart of Doctor Quesnay, the
“ head of the sect of œconomists, which
“ such a figure had contrasted, expands at
“ the sight of the bust of Madam Dubarrè,
“ executed by Pajon. The sculptor has far
“ sur-

“surpassed the painter. Every person discovers, in this head, all the elegance and voluptuous delicacy that escaped the pencil of Drouais. But, if the latter erred in drawing the figure of Madam Dubarré too large, the other was wrong in contracting it beyond the natural proportion. The head is too little, and seems calculated for a girl in the bloom of youth.”

WHETHER gratitude for the honours done her by the arts, has induced her to shew them signal marks of protection, or taste, is not known, certain it is, that she has begun to take part in every thing that relates to them. She has declared that she would interest herself in rebuilding the French playhouse, which was then much talked off. She made herself minutely acquainted with all the various designs; so that the gentlemen belonging to the office, acted only under her. She set different artists of eminence at work in adorning her lodge; and being dissatisfied, as we have observed, with her last portrait by

Drouais, she has ordered Monsieur Greuze to employ his pencil on the same subject.

THOSE particular avocations did not divert Madam Dubarrè from the principal object of her policy ; or, at least, from that which had been suggested to her. She was continually soothed with the hopes of being raised to the throne ; but it was previously necessary to dissolve her marriage. In order to cherish in her mind so flattering a chimera, the Duke d'Aiguillon, and the Chancellor, it was said, employed Monsieur Linguet to discuss the subject in a very extraordinary memorial, which was followed by a case still more singular ; at least, it is to such a motive alone their writing has been attributed, which may be judged from the following account :

“ SIMON Sommer, a carpenter at Landau, was married in the month of May, 1761, to Elizabeth Ultine, a girl, a native of the village of Obersbach. This unfortunate man, though no more than 22 years old, and a good figure, could not, till after six months sollicitation, obtain the rights of a husband from his blooming young

“ young bride. She had scarce, however,
 “ condescended to become his wife, in the
 “ full sense of the word, when she shewed
 “ an inclination to grant the like favours to
 “ every man. After a life of scandal,
 “ during three years, she became intimate
 “ with a Swiss serjeant belonging to the
 “ regiment of Lockman, with whom she
 “ eloped. They fled to Prussia. There
 “ are proofs that they have been married
 “ there in due form.—Sommer has but
 “ one child by his wife. He is no more
 “ than thirty-one years old; he is of a ro-
 “ bust and healthy constitution, What is
 “ he to do? Is he doomed to curse the
 “ gifts of nature for the residue of his life?
 “ or, must he seek, in debauchery, that re-
 “ lief which policy connives at, and reli-
 “ gion condemns? In a word, placed
 “ as he is, between sin and despondency,
 “ how is he to avoid the unhappy alterna-
 “ tive?”

THE enquirer, afterwards, cites cir-
 cumstances in which a divorce is allowa-
 ble. He supports his argument with dif-
 ferent passages out of scripture, that are fa-

vourable to his question : he refutes, examines, and explains those that are unfavourable. He has recourse to the Fathers of the Church, from whom he likewise deduces arguments : he insists, that the councils themselves throw great light on the question; and he even finds some decisions that are absolutely conclusive in his favour. He goes on to prove that divorces are neither contrary to the Jewish nor Christian law; that they oppose neither the Old nor New Testament; that the primitive church never scrupled to permit the dissolution of improper marriages; that, until the tenth century, the same opinion prevailed among all the catholic legislators. He concludes his reasons for allowing divorces with this observation, That the best way of suppressing them is to tolerate them.

SUCH is the extract from the memorial of this pretended carpenter, which is itself but an analysis of *The Complaints of an honest Man*; a work that had been published about two years and a half before, and written by the chief magistrate of a country town, who, being under the necessity of separating

ing from his wife on account of her dissolute life, made particular enquiries into the matter, and communicated the result of his researches to the public.

MONSIEUR Linguet, in his enquiries, first examines whether divorces may be legally allowed; and he looks upon the opinion, with respect to marriages being indissoluble, as a mere matter of discipline only, that may be altered, or made conditional at the option of the church, which, he insists, might at present revive the laws respecting marriage, that were in force in the first days of Christianity; and that the secular powers, who should publish laws agreeably to those principles, might do it with a secure conscience.

HE afterwards desires to know to whom Simon Sommer is to apply for permission to marry again, while his wife is living. 'Tis to the Pope to whom he is to make known his situation and wants in a petition; 'tis to his Holiness that those, in similar circumstances, have applied for relief. They were, it is true, chiefly princes; but the quality of the man, and the singularity
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of the situation of this carpenter of Landau will, as the petitioner hopes, interest the goodness of his Holiness : and, should he obtain a bull, he is then to apply to his sovereign to have it confirmed ; and this particular deviation from established custom, may afterwards become a general rule, when mature deliberation shall have shewn the advantages with which such a law is pregnant.

THE suspicions of the public with respect to the authenticity of this memorial in favour of the carpenter of Landau, who thus solicited a divorce, and liberty to marry again, were reasonably founded. First, because it was plain that no steps had been taken, no application made to any court concerning such an affair. Secondly, it was not very probable that a mechanic should start a question of such importance. Thirdly, as it was well known that three great persons of the Court were about to solicit such an indulgence. In the fourth place, in fine, the lawyer being a man devoted to their interest, there was great reason to suppose that it was one of those
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imaginary cases that are to be met with in law books, stated under fictitious names.

It was imagined that the case, after being laid before the Pontiff, and determined in the affirmative, a political law would thence result, of which some people should quickly take advantage; the Countess Dubarré might then be divorced from Count Dubarré, a divorce that had been talked of for a long time; the Marchioness of Langeac, who had never consummated her marriage with the Marquis; and the Count de la Marche, who was in the same situation with regard to his Countess. But this affair was not likely to take place immediately; and, perhaps, the ministers never thought seriously about it. They were only gaining time, in order to secure their authority on a permanent foundation.

THE Chancellor, however, received a very flattering recompence for his pretended zeal and efforts to accomplish the design of the favourite. She procured a regiment for his son, President of the Parliament that had been dissolved, and whom Monsieur Maupeou took care not to admit into
the

the new magistracy. Monsieur de Monteynard in vain represented in a most spirited manner, that the sudden promotion of this gownsmen to the rank of a colonel, was against every rule, and contrary to all the fundamental laws of military discipline. These remonstrances, however, had no other effect but to make him enemies at Court, and pave the way to his disgrace.

THE Abbé Terrai, whose removal was at that time talked of, by seeming to give into the same chimerical notion, took a more effectual way to establish himself on a more secure footing. Besides patiently bearing every insult and mortification, and a ready compliance with all the oppressive taxes that were imposed, it has been asserted, that he gave 50,000 livres annually out of the profits of his place to the favourite, who, therefore, continued to honour him with her protection, and prevent his disgrace. He was so submissive and devoted to the will of that Lady, that the orders she gave were as implicitly obeyed by the comptroller-general as the orders of the King himself.

THERE

THERE have been many of those orders dated from Choisi and Trianon, in which the Countess directed the *Sieur Beaujon*, banker to the Court, to pay certain sums of money, for which the lord-treasurer would account with him; and, as *Madam Dubarré* was then chiefly directed in every thing by her brother-in-law, the royal treasury was as open to him as his purse. This enabled him to make the great figure he did at *Spa*, and furnished him with immense sums he lost at the gaming-table. Notwithstanding all this, he did not meet with all the satisfaction there that he expected. People liked his money well enough; but he had no acquaintance but at the card-tables. He had, in vain, taken his mistress, *Madam Mourat*, and several other handsome women with him; in vain had he furnished his house in the most splendid manner, and given pressing invitations to many. No Frenchman visited him, except *Monsieur le Clerc*, son to the first clerk of the treasury. He was obliged to confine himself to the society of his mistresses; but this did not humble him into a
sense

sense of modesty. This was obvious from the following *bon mot*, full of wit, but extremely insolent. One day, while he held the bank, and was on his guard to avoid any unfair advantage being taken of him, as is customary in public assemblies where sharpers frequently get admittance, he seemed to betray some diffidence of the Electress Dowager of Saxony, who was one of the players. The Princess having expressed her surprise at this behaviour; "I beg a thousand pardons," exclaimed the Count; "my suspicions respecting you, Madam, are unjust: sovereigns, like you, never cheat but where crowns are at stake." However, he paid dearly for his wit soon after. He had lost a considerable sum, and obstinately persevering to stake upon a queen that still proved unfortunate. "Here's a whore, damn her," he cried; "she has cost me an immense sum." "We know one," replied some person, "that has cost us much greater sums."

It appeared very extraordinary, that notwithstanding the money which Madam Dubarrè spent, and the facility with which she

she obtained it from the Comptroller-general, still she realised nothing, and made no purchase : for the lodge at Lucienne yielded nothing ; it was no more than a little place of retirement for a lady of her rank. People talked of the King's purchasing the place called *Royal Lodge* from Monsieur Bouret, in order to make a present of it to his mistress. This report, which had been current in the time of Madam Pompadour, was revived : it gained still more credit from Madam Dubarré going to view the place, with the subsequent visit of his Majesty, and the answer of the Dauphin, which was attributed to the fears that prince had, lest such scheme should be executed. His august father, in taking a view of that magnificent place with his son, asked him his opinion of it ; and whether he did not think it a fine structure ? “ Too fine, indeed ; ” replied the Prince, in a voice that was scarce audible.

WE cannot better conclude those anecdotes at the commencement of the year 1772, the time they were written, than by a recital of what happened at the entertainment

ment given by the Countess of Valentinois to the Countess of Provence. This princess was at least imagined to have been the object. Madam Valentinois, her maid of honour, thought it her duty to express the joy she felt on the happy recovery of her august mistress from the small-pox, which had seized her at Fontainebleau. She had prepared plays and other amusements at Passy, where she has a splendid villa: at her return she solicited the honour of receiving the Countess of Provence at that place. We do not think it necessary to enter into a particular description here of the various parts of those entertainments, or to give an account of those rhymes that were composed in honour of the Chancellor, which gave so much scandal to the public, and made the author the Abbé Versenon an object of ridicule to the courtiers, and of detestation among the patriots, who expressed the warmest resentment against the poet.

WE must observe, that the Countess of Valentinois had been from the first rising of the power of Madam Dubarrè, one of those
who

who paid her the greatest respect : she had the indiscretion to invite her to those entertainments, to receive her with much politeness, and to shew her such particular attention, that her behaviour could not but appear very rude and indecent to the Countess of Provence. The Princess therefore did not think proper to express any acknowledgment to her maid of honour. The latter mortified at the silence of her mistress, when she went to pay her compliments, asked the Princess how she liked the entertainment she had the honour of making for her. The Princess replied, with an air of astonishment, “ Entertainments for me, Madam ! I know you have made an entertainment in which I shared ; but I have not thanked you, because I imagined you designed rather to entertain Madam Dubarrè or the Chancellor.”

THIS blunder dissipated every expectation Madame Dubarrè had of creating a division among the royal family, and forming a party for herself among them. The whole family united against her, and gave her every reason to dread the most fatal consequences in case of the King's death.

SUPPLE.



